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No. 282

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Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 20, 22, 23 Nov 76 pp as indicated

[Three-part article by Philip Cornford]

[20 Nov 76, p 23]

[Text] The Australian wriggled in the humidity of Bangkok's Don Muang Airport. He had 45 minutes to wait until he boarded his flight to Sydney. Outwardly, he was calm: most professional heroin couriers are.

He was a small man, dapper, aged around 40, tanned with the years he had spent living in Hong Kong. He wore slacks and loose shirt; there was nothing to distinguish him from the other men passengers except perhaps the exaggeratedly careful grooming which even the heat couldn't wilt.

His passport gave his occupation as artist. He was one, in fact, although of only minor note. His real success he owed to his charm and ability to attract patronage from other men.

He had always managed the right friends, particularly in the past few months. This was his sixth run into Sydney and, so far, it had been the same as the others; not a ruffle. He had also done several trips to Amsterdam; a bit shakier because the language difficulties could always lead to potentially dangerous misunderstandings.

Stick to route! His syndicate friends had gone to a lot of trouble to emphasize that, and his experience had proven them to be right. Don't panic! Don't try to second-guess. Just do exactly as you're told and everything will be fine.

So far, he had done exactly that. He had gone to a hotel in the city an hour and 15 minutes before take-off, dead on time. There he had knocked on a door, said the right words, been admitted and given a number of things: a golf bag containing half a dozen clubs, a ticket to Sydney, the address of a hotel in Sydney, and his introduction, a dialogue which would make sense to only one man in the world.

That man was his "shotgun," his guard dog. He was right there, at that moment, somewhere among the passengers, waiting to board the same plane. The courier didn't have the faintest idea who he might be but the shotgun knew who he was.

The shotgun was someone more important, far less expendable, than the courier. He travelled unarmed, despite his watchdog role, which had two aspects: to make sure the courier didn't get greedy and slip off on his own with the heroin, and to observe any slip-ups, such as a customs grab, and report back accurately to the syndicate bosses.

The courier would meet his shotgun only once, and then briefly. After getting a clearance through customs at Sydney International Airport, the courier would go to the hotel address he had been given. The watchdog would be awaiting him. There, in return for the password and the golf bag and clubs, the courier would be given a ticket back to Hong Kong and an envelope containing Australian cash currency.

It was one of the best, and simplest, safeguards around, worked on a strict need-to-know basis. The shotgun was responsible for passing the heroin on to the "Sydney connection." The courier didn't have the faintest idea who this was. If he was caught and interrogated, he would know only the addresses of the hotels at which he had received and delivered the heroin. The syndicate would lose a courier, but the penetration would stop right there.

The courier didn't even know how much heroin he was carrying in the shafts of the golf clubs.

It was 4.5 kilos. On the streets of Sydney it was worth \$1.16 million.

There was something else the courier didn't know, but was soon to learn: he was about to be busted!

The tannoy called the passengers to board the plane. The Australian waited until about a third of the passengers had filed out on to the tarmac and then made his move. His shotgun could not board until he did, and if he waited until the passengers thinned, it might look like he was making a clumsy attempt to identify the shotgun. That wouldn't be appreciated.

As the Australian handed his ticket over for a final check on the tarmac verge, a group of men suddenly surrounded him. There was no fuss. The courier was simply whisked away.

One of the few people to notice what had happened was the shotgun. He shuffled forward in line, ticket ready. Two men had remained behind to intently watch the remaining passengers file out. Instinct, and training, told the shotgun that the police had left the arrest until the last minute, hoping against the odds that somehow the courier might have made some move that would identify him.

The shotgun handed across his ticket, thanked the check girl. So far, he had not made any move out of the ordinary, he wasn't going to. He walked across to board the plane. He was sticking to routine. There was nothing else he could do without giving himself away.

The courier, suddenly haggard and frightened, his outward urbanity completely destroyed, was ushered into an airport office. There, the club heads already removed, were his golf bag and sticks. The arresting officers were Thais, but standing among them, taller, also wearing an open shirt and slacks, was an Australian he had never seen before. It probably gave the courier the first inkling of how his arrest had come about.

This Australian agent, like most of the people in this story, must remain anonymous. But he is the South East Asian liaison officer, and one of the top investigators of an elite bunch of men who form the Narcotics Bureau of the Australian Customs Investigation branch, one of the world's most successful busters of drug smuggling rings.

He is based in Kuala Lumpur, but his brief encompasses Singapore, Hong Kong and Bangkok, the latter two especially since they are now the two major distribution centres for most of the world's illicit heroin traffic.

Since Turkey in 1972 moved to close down its traditional source of heroin by financing the peasant poppy growers into other forms of agriculture, the attention of the underworld has switched to an area known as The Golden Triangle, 60,000 square miles of mountainous country running across the border of Burma, Thailand and Laos.

There, the hills are swathed in brilliantly flowering poppies in November. During January and February, the poppy heads, now fist-sized, are scratched and a milky sap extracted. It is raw opium. The peasants who grow the poppies earn an average of \$400 a year.

The sap is sold by the peasants to laboratories hidden in the mountains. Most of these are controlled by Chiu Chow Chinese, originally from the southern Chinese province of Canton and who now dominate the Chinese in Thailand. There, the opium sap is processed into morphine, cocaine and heroin.

The laboratories are very modern, staffed by expert chemists. They are remote, extremely well-hidden. They are also well defended. Last year, a battalion of Burmese soldiers fought a pitched battle with 200 men armed with machineguns and mortars to storm a laboratory at Monghsat on the Thai-Burmese border. They found, and burned, one ton of pure heroin.

It was a major victory, but still only a pin prick puncture in the world's biggest and most vicious racket. Estimates vary, but a report to the U.S. Congress estimates that The Golden Triangle produces 900 tons of heroin a year, half of it for export. At Australian street prices, the exports are worth \$219.46 billion.

The profit escalation is enormous. The factory sells the refined heroin to a syndicate at \$3 a gram and the syndicate sells it to a distributor for \$20 a gram. By the time the distributor has fed his agents, and the agents have pushed it out through their street sellers, the price per gram is \$480.

Heroin on Trawlers

A 0.250-gram cap of heroin sells in Sydney for \$40 after the heroin in that cap has been diluted 3:1 with lactose.

Most of it is fed through countless networks operating out of Bangkok and Hong Kong, although Malaysia is increasingly becoming a distribution centre. One police report says a dozen trawlers, each capable of carrying three tons of heroin, are making regular runs out of Burma and Thailand to feed the networks in the distribution cities.

The great bulk ends up on the West Coast of North America, or is imported into Europe through Marseilles and Amsterdam. Hardly a city in the world is left untouched by the drug runners' tentacles, and Australian cities, particularly Sydney, are no exception.

An addict uses about two "caps" a day, an \$80-a-day habit. To finance it, many of them become street pushers. The profit margins aren't too high, but they get their bonus by extracting their own "hits" by further milking down the heroin they push.

Most of the heroin comes in through Sydney. It is the nation's biggest airport and ship terminal, handling the vast bulk of the 1.5 million air passengers and 137,000 ship travellers who came into Australia last year.

Harvey Bates, assistant secretary of the Customs Investigation Branch and the first director in 1969 of the narcotics unit, the biggest and most important of the branch's five anti-drug bureaus, says it is almost impossible to estimate how much heroin comes into Australia.

But, pushed, Mr Bates estimates that perhaps 15 percent of the total is seized by customs. That's 5 percent higher than in the U.S., where the inflow is far greater and the number of entry ports far more numerous.

Last year, customs agents seized 6,000 grams of heroin, 10 times more than in 1970. But by September this year, they had intercepted 9,875 grams, and have made several big seizures since then. Mr Bates told a Senate committee he expects 14,000 grams will be confiscated this year.

On the street, it would be worth \$5.72 million. And if 15 percent is being intercepted, then the total street value of heroin coming into Australia is around \$40 million a year.

Another difficulty facing customs investigators is the seemingly inexhaustible number of amateurs who are willing to act as couriers. They make many of the minor runs syndicates don't wish to risk the professionals on because a man making regular trips from Asia soon comes under suspicion.

An amateur merely has to keep cool. He has the advantage of expert concealment and no record to make him an object of suspicion. Often, there are 10,000 heroin addicts in Sydney alone, with another 10,000 people who "shoot up" irregularly, just for the kicks. They are addicts getting paid off in heroin. Just as often, they are kids out for kicks, rewarded with a free ticket and a free-spending holiday, money supplied.

But the man they got at Don Muang airport was a pro. Although he had already made five trips without a hitch, he had come under suspicion during his fourth run into Australia. He was noted, a routine matter, at Sydney; Hong Kong was informed of the frequency of his visits. He had been coming in at four- and six-week intervals.

The word was passed through the Australian liaison agent in Kuala Lumpur. Surveillance in Hong Kong led to a growing certainty that he was a runner. But a grab then would have caught only the courier, so he was permitted to make his fifth run unmolested--but watched every inch of the way.

The trail led to the shotgun in a Sydney hotel. The shotgun was followed to a luxury block of mid-city apartments, where he delivered the heroin. The shotgun, who was paid by the "Sydney connection," was allowed to leave the country with his cash. The narcotics agents were after bigger fish.

Painstakingly, the Narcotics Bureau men prepared their brief on the Sydney pusher, an Asian who had been in Australia 16 weeks. His arrival matched with the first trip of the courier. Undercover surveillance and intelligence left no doubt that he was running a network of street purshers from the luxury apartment.

All this information was given to the Australian liaison officer, who passed it on to Hong Kong and Bangkok, where equally careful investigations were underway. Two weeks before the courier made his sixth--and final--trip the Australian agent left Kuala Lumpur and travelled constantly between Hong Kong and Bangkok.

Toughest decision

The night after the courier flew out of Hong Kong for Bangkok, the night before his pickup, a decision was made which involved five police forces. The Australian Customs Investigation branch and the narcotics bureaus of Thailand, Hong Kong, United Kingdom, and The Netherlands, the U.S. and Canadian narcotic bureaus were kept informed. All this was done by telex and telephone hook-ups.

The toughest decision lay with Harvey Bates and his lieutenants. If the courier were allowed to come into Australia, they would get him, the shotgun, the Sydney Asian pusher and quite a few of his streetmen in one sweep. It would be an important coup.

If the arrest was made by the Thais, all these men except the courier would escape. But the Thais would get more important men: the bosses who ran the syndicate out of Bangkok. And it was already known that another syndicate courier had left the day before for Amsterdam.

Bates, and the other four forces, opted for a Thai arrest. It went brilliantly. Within an hour of the courier being caught, the Thais had picked up the syndicate principals and had an iron-clad case against them. In Amsterdam, police picked up the courier, the shotgun, and the local connection.

In Sydney, the Federal agents watched as the Asian within 24 hours fled the country. They made no move to stop him. Without hard evidence, it was a waste of time and the evidence was in Thailand. They were comforted by the knowledge that, wherever he goes, the Asian will be under 24-hour surveillance and, one day

The Comet Case Kids Didn't Have a Show

[22 Nov 76, p 9]

[Text] Operation Comet began with a report from a customs undercover narcotics agent. Two small-time pushers were doing a lot of hustling in Melbourne, and a lot of talking; they were going to make the all-time greatest marihuana hit.

It was a routine report and, at first, didn't stir much excitement on Unit Three, a long and low motel-block-type building scrambling among the Canberra elms. It is the headquarters of the Investigation Branch of the Australian Customs, the home of its elite Narcotics Bureau.

Dozens of similar reports pour in every day, to be sorted and assessed and matched with other pieces in the jig-saw by the branch's Central Intelligence and Information Bureau. It gets 100 or more pieces of odd and separate information a day flowing through its Sydney office alone.

The undercover agent's next report received higher operational rating: the two young hoodlums, aged 23 and 25 were buying up every ounce of wholesale marihuana and hashish they could get their hands on and pushing it frantically around Melbourne and Geelong.

They were also pumping the hot money market for fast loans, no question answered and a high return guaranteed. They were after a bankroll and within a week the agent knew why they needed it: they were scheming to smuggle into Australia one ton of high-grade Indonesian marihuana.

It was the beginning of a brilliant piece of penetration. From that moment, the two young pushers and the ring they gathered around them were doomed.

Only a small cadre of men know who the agent was and how he operated. The files containing the cover identities and operations of the Investigation Branch's undercover men are the most sensitive in Unit Three.

Harvey Bates, the branch's assistant secretary and one of the few men who control the agents, is reluctant to admit they exist. "I believe we have the most efficient undercover organisation in Southeast Asia," he says, "but to talk about it lessens its efficiency."

But certain facts are known about their style of operation. The agents are usually young and single. In spite of this, they are intensely trained investigators. They are all volunteers.

Once they go out into the cold, they are on their own. Their only contacts with their colleagues are to report information and to receive briefings, and this is done at a distance, in great secrecy.

A Life of Misery

They spend weeks, sometimes months, dropping out into the underworld, getting as close to it as they can without actually joining it. They prowl the haunts of criminals, prostitutes, pimps, listening, talking. They haunt flophouses, consorting with smalltime pushers and users. Often, theirs is a life of considerable physical misery.

Theirs is also the most dangerous, difficult and nerve-exhausting job in police work. The information they gather is of incalculable value.

The Customs Investigation Branch has another underworld network: the informers who sell information. They are paid out of a slush fund. Harvey Bates says: "They don't get paid as much as you might expect. But it has run into more than \$100,000 in the past three or so years."

There was another aspect to Operation Comet that made it a classic: the criminals themselves, and the plans they made. Finally, five were involved, four young men and a 20-year-old girl. The eldest was 26. None of them was a "heavy." They were fringe marihuana dealers, small-time pushers who suddenly grew ambitious because, after all, it looked so easy. All they had to do was get the money to start with.

It was never discovered where they raised the money. The whole operation cost more than \$300,000--all of it in cash. The great bulk came from a backer who could see easy and rich profits. Had the operation succeeded, the marihuana would have been worth \$1,120,000 on the streets. As it was, the backer did his money cold.

A ton of marihuana takes a lot of unloading, so the would-be smugglers bought a house in East Melbourne and built a false wall with a mirror for a door. In this room, they planned to store the marihuana until they built up a network of sellers. Then they'd go back for another load. Had they succeeded, this bunch of small-time operators would suddenly have become the biggest marihuana ring in Australia.

They didn't have a chance. So expert was the undercover agent's surveillance that the narcotics branch knew about the hideaway as soon as it was built. They even sneaked in an agent to inspect it while the house was empty.

All the ring's plans were known in advance. They paid a pilot \$20,000 to fly two of the men to Indonesia in a twin-engined plane.

They would load the marihuana on to the plane and fly it back to Australia, coming in low over the sea to get under Darwin Airport radar, landing 50 km south of Darwin on a disused light aircraft strip.

There, the marihuana would be unloaded. Then the plane would take off, skim low over the coast and, well out to sea, gain height until it was on the airport radar. Then it would make a normal landing.

The plane would refuel, file a flight plan to take it south. It would take off, land again on the disused strip, pick up the marihuana and fly it to another light aircraft field outside Melbourne. There the marihuana would be loaded into a van and taken to the hideaway.

Northern Corridor

It is a scenario narcotics investigators know only too well. Almost all the marihuana coming into Australia is flown or shipped in along this wide-open northern corridor. Tons of it get through undetected each year.

One of the men flew by a scheduled airline to Indonesia. A narcotics agent watched him depart. From the moment he landed he was under surveillance by Indonesian narcotics investigators. He had gone ahead to arrange the deal.

Two of the men flew out in the light plane. Their first stop was Bali. That same day, another man and the girl caught a scheduled airlines to Bali. Two customs agents were on the next flight.

In Bali, the ring's plans came unstuck. A cyclone ground their plane. For a week, they waited it out, unaware that every movement was being observed by the Australian and Indonesian agents. Then two of the men flew by scheduled airliner into Indonesia to join the advance man. They were carrying the money to pay for the marihuana. The girl and her friend caught a plane back to Australia.

Taking No Chances

The original plan had been to arrest them when they landed in Bali on their way back to Australia with the marihuana. But with the ring's plans upset, the Indonesian police weren't taking any chances. They picked up the three Australians and charged them.

The rest was anti-climatic. The girl and the man were arrested in Melbourne. They were sentenced in Australia. The other three men were sentenced in Indonesia. The terms ranged from three to five years' jail.

Operation Comet was not an isolated case. Operation Eclipse ran a direct parallel and two Australians were arrested in Indonesia as they were about to fly out to Bali with 600 kilos of marihuana on board. They were following exactly the same plan. They had been penetrated in exactly the same way.

The Turk Drops His Bundle

[23 Nov 76, p 11]

[Text] The Turk's plan had all the simplicity and daring that only corruption makes possible. He was going to waltz through Australian Customs a crate containing 141 kilos of the best hashish his native country could produce.

The Turk had plenty of money to buy the help he needed. The hashish cost him only \$32,000 to buy in Turkey and it was going to be worth \$600,000 in cash by the time he finished selling it in Australia.

The help the Turk wanted was a customs officer working the Sydney wharves. The Turk knew the officer was having financial difficulties; he suspected--correctly--that he was amenable to bribery.

It is not known exactly when, or how, the Turk recruited the officer. Both of them later refused to disclose this, or how much the officer was paid. But he became the key figure in the Turk's plans.

Once he recruited the officer, the Turk threw finesse to the winds. He didn't need it. Brazenly, he got his contact in Istanbul to put the crate full of hashish blocks, dark hard resin not unlike chocolate, on a freighter bound for Australia.

The hashish was wrapped in foil. The only other attempt made to disguise it was a weighbill which falsely described the crate's contents. It would not have passed even the most cursory of customs inspections, particularly with Istanbul as the port of dispatch.

The ship took about seven weeks to reach Sydney. Then it was simply a matter of waiting until the customs officer the Turk had bought came on duty. The officer passed the crate, and it was carted off to a bond store, to await pickup.

The plan worked flawlessly. The officer must have breathed a sigh of relief. The Turk must have, understandably, been congratulating himself. Neither of them knew they were only a few days away from jail.

Meeting Observed

Unknown to either of them, the Turk had made one slip; he had failed to pick up a "tail," a Customs Narcotics Bureau agent who had been assigned to keep his eye on the Turk.

The Turk had long been suspected of running in hashish, but he had cleverly avoided being caught. Dozens of agents had spent endless hours, waiting with infinite patience, checking and rechecking all the Turk's movements, but without success.

Then one of the agents observed a downtown meeting between the Turk and the customs officer. He reported it immediately. That day, with the swiftness and secrecy borne of long practice, the Narcotics Bureau scrambled a major operation into action.

They had no more than suspicion to go on. The hashish was already on its way from Istanbul, but the agents were not to know this until later. But 24-hour tails were put on the Turk and the customs officer.

It went on for 29 days, non-stop. By the time the freighter came in and the bells started to ring with the investigators, 26 men were working on the case. They logged two other meetings between the Turk and the officer.

The day the Turk called at the bond house to collect his hashish, they pounced. An hour later the customs officer was arrested. He got six years, the same sentence as the Turk. Two other men from the Turk's ring got lesser sentences.

Finding one of their own men involved in a drug racket was a bitter, but not entirely unexpected, blow for the customs department. They are dedicated men and a "bent" agent within their ranks can undo a lot of hard, slogging work.

Harvey Bates, assistant secretary to the Customs Investigation Branch and the man who set up its specialist narcotics and supporting bureaus, says: "It has to be expected. There is corruption in all areas of narcotics smuggling and selling. We have had it in the Customs Department before and it would be naive to expect that there is none now, or will be none in the future."

Despite this, the branch has had rapidly increasing success in busting drug smuggling rings. Up to September 30 it had grabbed 9875 grams of heroin, almost double the totals for 1974 and 1975. It had seized 1,026,182 grams of marihuana, three times the amount it confiscated in 1974. It had launched 125 prosecutions for heroin and cocaine smuggling and distribution, 329 prosecutions for other drugs, such as marihuana, hashish and cannabis oil.

But there is a darker side to this picture: the seizures are only a trickle of the clandestine traffic, and they also indicate the alarming and massive increase in the amounts of drugs of all kinds which are being smuggled into Australia.

"We can never stop the traffic, not even the great bulk of it, no matter how successful we are," Mr Bates says. "The profits are so high they justify high losses and great risks. And there are so many people who are willing and unscrupulous enough to run the risks."

Table. How the Cost Grows

The following table illustrates the enormous profit escalation of drugs as they progress from the source of supply, through distributors, and out to street sellers.

	Source	Wholesale	Street
Heroin	\$3,000 kilo	\$20,000 kilo	\$480 gram *
Hashish	\$100 1b	\$1,600 1b	\$120 oz.
Marihuana	\$50 1b	\$425 1b	\$35 oz

*A 0.250-cap of heroin sells for \$40 on the streets. But the sellers mix lactose 3/1 with heroin which puts the real value of one gram of heroin at \$480.

Once drug smuggling was the prerogative of the professional criminal, men who had the money and the contacts necessary for a successful clandestine operation. Today, with an almost unlimited demand for drugs, so-called "amateurs" are getting into the act.

"There is no 'Mr Big' of drug smuggling in Australia," Mr Bates says. I can't even guess how many syndicates or rings are involved. If we knew about them, we'd clean them up. But we've broken up many rings which were operating for the first time or had a few runs to their credit and all the indications are that if we hadn't got them they'd still be operating on even bigger scales."

\$100,000 in Ceiling

In Melbourne recently the Federal Narcotics Bureau busted a ring of three people who had imported 12 lb of heroin. They found more than \$100,000 in cash concealed in the ceiling of the house they were operating from. None of them had previous criminal records, and it is likely that it was their first operation.

Even more typical of this new breed of drug runners is former Melbourne man Tony Douglas, 33, proprietor of the Mississippi Queen bar in Bangkok, a pick-up joint for prostitutes and addicts. But until last year Douglas had never trafficked in drugs himself.

A pile of debts hanging over Douglas and his 12 Thai relatives, greed and a belief that it would be a pushover, launched a bold plan which, had it worked, would have pumped \$1.4 million worth of Buddha sticks into Australia--more than 90,000 of them packed in 11 suitcases.

Douglas got his chance when two Australians, Tommy Austin, 23, and Terence Alrich, 38, walked into his bar. They owned a 12.8 metre yacht, Charma.

Douglas, through his bar contacts, knew where he could get the Buddha sticks. But he didn't have the slightest idea of how to unload them in Australia. Austin and Alrich said they did. And they had the means of smuggling the Buddha sticks into Australia's barren and unguarded northwest coast. From there, they would simply fly it to Sydney.

Douglas recruited a friend, Brian Jolly, 30, another Australian living in Bangkok who was broke. Alrich brought in an American, Walter Hill, a construction diver whom he owed money for work on Charma.

Hill was to get \$20,000. After that and all the other costs, the profits were to be split equally between Douglas, Jolly, Austin and Alrich. Douglas, and Jolly had no idea what they would get, but they figured about \$20,000 each. They were amazed when they later learned the profits would have netted them a fortune.

"I was stunned," Jolly said. "I could not believe that something cost from eight to 10 cents in Thailand could sell in Australia for between \$15 and \$17." But Jolly wasn't entirely naive: he packed a pistol in his luggage when he boarded Charma.

The voyage was a disaster. It was to take 30 days, but lasted 48. Jolly, Hill and Austin were the crew. They hit a storm off Java and wasted two days repairing the engine. Then the rudder broke, and another three days were lost.

Douglas and Alrich, meanwhile, had flown to Derby, on the North West Cape. With the Charma overdue, they hired a plane to go hunting for it--and gave away the whole operation. The next day, the pilot remarked in a bar to

to John Leahy, the only customs man in Derby, about the two strangers who had told him they were looking for a disabled yacht.

Different Names

Leahy was immediately suspicious. He started checking out the two strangers, and found they had used different names when booking into two different hotels. They were doing nothing, just hanging around, obviously waiting for something. And there had been no distress or search reports filed for a disabled yacht.

There was a nervous moment when Douglas and Alrich put out to sea in a hired boat. Leahy hired a plane and went searching for them, unsuccessfully. He reported to Perth headquarters, who told him to sit tight.

Their patience was rewarded. That night, Douglas and Alrich returned with a third man, Jolly. They had obviously made contact with the boat they were seeking. Next day, the three men hired a four-wheel-drive vehicle. When they returned to Derby, there were two extra men, Hill and Austin. They unloaded 11 suitcases from the vehicle.

Then someone tipped off Douglas that he was under surveillance by Leahy. To test this, Douglas flew out to Sydney alone. When Douglas rang to report that he had got through unmolested, Alrich, Austin and Hill flew out of Derby with seven suitcases. Jolly remained behind with four suitcases, to catch a later flight.

He never got on it. Leahy moved in and arrested him. Alrich, Austin and Hill were picked up at Sydney Airport. Douglas was arrested in Sydney. They got sentences ranging from 3-1/2 years to seven years for Douglas and Alrich.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

POLICE ARREST MORE AS DRUG PUSHERS

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 7 Jan 77 p 1 BK

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Thurs--Police have dealt another blow to a drug distribution gang operating in the city with the arrest of four suspected pushers. They have also seized a quantity of heroin, empty plastic tubes, and other paraphernalia used in smoking the drug.

Deputy CID chief (Investigations) Acting Supt S. Kulasingam said today that members of the flying squad detained the suspects on Monday evening.

In the course of investigations, police went to an unoccupied house at the 2.5 mile Jalan Sungei Besi where they believe drug sessions were held.

"The whole place was littered with cigarette butts, plastic tubes, and candle wax," Kulasingam said. He added that pushers had been supplying heroin to addicts living in Jalan Sungei Besi, Jalan Chan Sow Lin, and the San Peng Flats area.

On Monday, at about 5 pm, members of the squad raided a house at the 2.5 mile Jalan Sungei Besi where they found two men, one of whom managed to run out of the house. Police caught him after a short chase. As the man was running police said they saw him taking something out of his pocket and throwing it into a drain. Police found 45 plastic straws of heroin and a separate packet of heroin in a packet recovered from the drain. From the house they seized nine empty packets, 72 empty straws, and three empty tubes.

After questioning the two suspects, aged 22 and 28, police went to a house about 100 yards away where they detained another two men.

"We believe that with the arrests, particularly of the first two, drug pushing in the area will be slower," Kulasingam said.

In three separate raids yesterday, police detained three men and seized 27 tubes of heroin.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

BRIEFS

TRIAL FOR 40 PUSHERS--Kuala Lumpur, Thurs--About 40 suspected major drug traffickers have been arrested and will be tried under the amended dangerous drug act this year, the Dewan Negara [National Assembly] was told today. Law Minister Tan Sri Abdul Kadir Yusoff said that, if they were found guilty, they could get death or life sentence and whipping. So far, one person had been sentenced to death by hanging by the Kuala Lumpur high court in connection with such an offense, while three others--two in Alor Star and one in Kangar--were given life sentences, he told Senator Dr Lim Ah Sitt. Tan Sri Ladir said action was taken following his talks with the chief justice to speed up major drug cases. Replying to Sen Hajjah Fatimah Haji Salim, Tan Sri Kadir said drug pushers and addicts below the age of 12 could be sent to rehabilitation centers. Those above 18 years old could be jailed, and those above 21 years of age could be sentenced to hanging. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 7 Jan 77 p 6 BK]

DRIVE AGAINST DRUG ABUSE--An all-out drive against drug abuse will be launched next year. The deputy minister of law, Encik Rais Yatim, said in Ipoh today the National Association Against Drug Abuse (PEMADAM), would spearhead the campaign with coordinated support from the various departments. He was addressing a PEMADAM meeting at the state operations room. Encik Rais said the association would also organize an intensive course on drug rehabilitation in Kuala Lumpur in February. The meeting would be attended by all heads of PEMADAM to discuss and send programs in the fight against drug abuse. Encik Rais said the Ministry of Education had agreed to formulate a system for schools to insure that students did not indulge in drug abuse. The school [word indistinct] and teachers will be requested to play more effective roles in the system. PEMADAM would also seek the help of the Ministry of Health to set up detoxification centers in all the hospitals. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 30 Dec 76 BK]

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

DRUG EXPERT SAYS GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS NOT REDUCING ADDICTS

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 10 Jan 77 p 3 BK

[Text] A leading anti-drug expert proposed yesterday that the minimum punishment for drug traffickers should be 5 years in jail and the maximum should be life imprisonment.

Dr Prasop Rattanakon in an interview with the NATION REVIEW said the current lightest punitive measure of 1 to 5 years imprisonment clause was not sufficient a deterrent. The present 10 years to life imprisonment term is likewise "too soft."

Dr Prasop, chief of the Public Health Ministry's alcoholism and addiction prevention office, also suggested that narcotics traffickers should not be given reduction in jail terms.

"Such severe punishment would be the best solution in reducing drug addiction," he said.

Like family planning, the issue of narcotics and addiction should be inserted in every level of the educational program so that students realize the dangers, Dr Prasop indicated.

He said the tendency to addiction in the country is still high and the government's programs show no sign of reducing the number of drug addicts.

Despite efforts from all offices involved to curb this addiction trend, the number of addicts has shot up, and the figure of those who are readmitted after medical treatment is also high.

Another factor in this the jumping rate of addiction is that youths, after seeing their colleagues take drugs, want to try so that they are accepted in the group. So they also get hooked.

Since Thailand is in the so-called "Golden Triangle" narcotics producing area, most of the drugs including those from Burma and Laos (another two

countries in the Golden Triangle) are conveyed to the world markets through Thailand.

"This is the reason why drugs are still circulating in the country and the suppression is so difficult," Dr Prasop said.

Dr Prasop said that drug experts in addiction and alcohol problems have been sent to all provinces to give training to about 200 officers, including public health, education, administration, suppression, and local leaders in each province.

"These well-trained officers and volunteers will later go out to villages to explain the danger of narcotics particularly to the youths," he continued.

Another urgent task of the Public Health Ministry is to cooperate with other offices involved in prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation, Dr Prasop said.

For the time being, he said, the ministry tries to convince youths that drugs are dangerous not only to themselves, but also to the society and national security.

For the addicts themselves, addiction definitely affects their health and also results in their incapability to work.

For society, most of the social problems including crime, robbery, and assault are the results of addictions.

Addiction certainly affects national security. Sovereignty will never survive, and the national economy will also decline, if the government has to spend hundreds of millions of baht for the suppression of drugs and treatment of addicts.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

DUTCH JUSTICE MINISTER DISCUSSES NARCOTICS, AID TO THAILAND

Hong Kong AFP in English 0525 GMT 14 Jan 77 BK

[Text] Bangkok, 14 Jan (AFP)--Dutch Justice Minister Andreas Van Agt, noting a rapidly increasing demand for heroin in Western Europe, Friday called for closer cooperation among neighbouring countries in stamping out narcotics trafficking.

Mr Van Agt told a news conference that Holland was sending a high-ranking police officer to Bangkok on 1 March to act as a permanent liaison officer with Thai police. He said the agent, who has yet to be named, will also work with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Hong Kong Police Department, all of whom have permanent representatives stationed in the Thai capital.

The officer will be attached to the Royal Netherlands Embassy and will take part in a re-exchange of information between antinarcotics agencies.

Mr Van Agt urged other European countries to take similar action, describing narcotics trafficking as "a danger to mankind." "The policies of our neighbours are not basically different," he said. "There are several areas of cooperation already, but it is not sufficient."

Commenting on Holland's position as the main distribution point for heroin in Western Europe, the minister said he did not believe it was because of relatively lenient penalties.

"It is because of our geographic position, our open borders and especially because in Holland we have a large Chinese community which organises the distribution."

Holland recently lifted the maximum penalty for narcotic traffickers from 4 to 12 years, with an additional 40,000 U.S. dollars fine.

Asked whether he thought it was a sufficient deterrent, he replied: "We fully realise that it is not impressive compared with Asian standards,

but you should realise the maximum penalty in relation to drugs has to be integrated into the entire legislative structure which [words indistinct] with other European countries. But he added: "We'll see how it works out. If we get serious indications it is not enough, we're prepared to introduce a higher penalty."

The minister, who returned Thursday from a visit to the rugged Golden Triangle, said he was not blaming Thailand for Holland's predicament.

Pointing out that the Netherlands has an addict population of between 10,000 and 15,000, he said: "That is fairly small compared with you. Thailand is a victim country like we are with one percent of the population addicted to opium, morphine or heroin."

He said he was confident relations between Dutch authorities and Thai police would improve as a result of his visit and hinted that Holland may also improve contacts with Burma, which produces about 90 percent of the opium that flows out of the Golden Triangle each year.

Dutch heroin seizures have risen from 28 kilograms in 1974 to 54 kilograms in 1975 and 190 kilograms last year. But Mr Van Agt said that was insignificant compared with the estimated 25,000 kilograms of heroin available for export to Europe each year.

Asked if the Netherlands was considering monetary assistance to Thailand in combating the problem, the minister said: "I am not in a position to make a comment on aid, but we fully understand the difficulties your government faces and we will not fail to discuss that with my government when we return.

"We realise what a burdening problem it is for developing countries like Thailand."

The official part of Mr Van Agt's visit ends Friday, but he will be staying another five days with his wife in a private capacity.

He has already met King Phumipon Adunyadet, a prime mover behind a crop replacement programme in northern Thailand, Prime Minister Thanin Kraiwichian and a number of high-ranking police officers both in Bangkok and the northern hill city of Chiang Mai.

He was calling on Interior Minister Samak Suntharawet and Foreign Minister Uppadit Pachariyangkun today.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

PAPER HAILS STIFF NARCOTICS SENTENCES, VIGOROUS PROSECUTION

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 Dec 76 p 8 BK

[Editorial: "Justice Must Be Served"]

[Text] The court has lately been prescribing heavy prison sentences for drug traffickers. Our judges must be commended for such verdicts which are bound to have a deterrent effect. As long as penalties were paltry, criminals would consider the risks of their trade worthwhile. The life imprisonment and the lengthy jail terms pronounced against those convicted in the Smedley case must have been a shock not only to those sentenced, but also to these narcotic dealers still at large. It is most encouraging that the "merchants of death" are now being told in no uncertain terms that they will be given the kind of punishment that they deserve.

We must give credit to our prime minister, Mr Thanin Kraiwichain, for recognizing the danger of narcotics to our own youth and the threat it poses to the future vitality of our nation. One of the first things he did was to declare war on drugs. Past governments tended to overlook the problem believing that the opium, morphine, and heroin originating from the "Golden Triangle" were simply passing through Thailand on their way to the United States, Europe, and other markets. They did not give any priority to the problem, considering it to be that of the countries for which the drugs were destined. However, the present government feels a moral obligation to combat the traffic not only to save Thailand's youth, but also to contribute concretely to the international drive against narcotics.

With its firm stand, the government has made all officials concerned aware of what they must do with regard to the drug traffic. Police, customs officials, and public prosecutors have been working harder than ever to catch dealers red-handed, and to present enough evidence in court to secure convictions. We used to complain in this leader column about certain public prosecutors who allegedly refused to file formal charges in court against notorious narcotics manufacturers, traders, and pushers, despite the fact that these persons had been arrested with the goods on them. A number of these suspects have slipped out of the country and escaped justice. Now, there seems to be

a sense of responsibility pervading various departments and branches of government.

Those police officers who have been fighting narcotics with dedication in the past, despite the handicaps and obstacles, must feel great satisfaction over the fact that the public prosecutors are now generally aware of the undermining of society and law and order by the drug dealers. The judges have been fair and just during the various trials, and when they find the defendants guilty have brought the full weight of the law to bear upon them.

It is now up to our prime minister to press ahead with the organization of a special agency to combat narcotics, and to see that it goes into action as soon as possible. He promised to set up such a special office about two-and-a-half months ago, and the public is waiting to see it in operation.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

BANGKOK PAPER WANTS STIFFER TERMS FOR DRUG OFFENDERS

Bangkok SIANG PUANGCHON in Thai 12 Jan 77 p 3 BK

[Editorial: "Narcotics Suppression"]

[Text] Reports of narcotics arrests have been frequent recently, with the authorities arresting many international traffickers and confiscating large amounts of evidence. This shows that the policy emphasizing the suppression of narcotics is working.

However, the narcotic trade centered on Thailand will not decrease, regardless of how drastic the suppression is, because of the very lenient terms of punishment handed down for narcotics violations despite the danger these acts can cause to society and the national prestige.

The punishment for drug-related crimes now ranges from 1 year to life. This is very little, and it should be revised by a newer law. Damage to the national honor should be taken into consideration when drafting this new law because those guilty of drug crimes not only pose a danger to individuals but they also damage the country's good name.

Narcotics trafficking will go on indefinitely because of the huge financial rewards. People transport narcotics because they want money to satisfy their desires. And, in spite of stricter controls over the normal means of transporting narcotics, couriers still take the risk because of the potential rewards awaiting them if they are successful.

Besides the lenient punishment, another failing is the amnesty regulations. Those on life sentences can be released within a few years as a result of amnesty orders, so they do not repent. There should be a stipulation in the law that absolutely prohibits the reduction of any terms of punishment for narcotics crimes.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

COLUMNIST VIEWS U.S. HEROIN TRAFFICKING OPERATIONS

Bangkok SIANG PUANGCHON in Thai 11 Jan 77 p 3 BK

["Speaking Thai" column by Rattana Yawapraphat]

[Text] Frankly speaking, it was the Vietnam war which caused the heroin business in Southeast Asia to become unbelievably prosperous. American GIs were drafted. Since they did not volunteer but were drafted to fight, they did not have the necessary courage. Thus they were forced to depend on sedatives of some kind to sooth their fears. At that time, no sedative was considered better than opium, but since its use was old-fashioned they turned to heroin as the only alternative.

According to a U.S. Army analysis in 1971, 11 percent of the Vietnam war veterans studied were heroin addicts, while 22 percent tried it at least once. Since there are heroin addicts among U.S. Vietnam war veterans, it is not doubtful that Americans who are keen on making money from all kinds of trade would turn to heroin trafficking.

John M. Murphy, a U.S. congressman who made an on-the-spot study in Asia, told the press upon his return to the United States that "a large number of retired servicemen who had already returned home went back again to engage in drug trafficking." The U.S. drug enforcement administration confirmed that the ringleader of heroin traffickers in Thailand is William Henry Jackson, a former American military official, who operates a bar called the "Five Stars Bar" as a cover. Jackson's heroin business was carried out entirely by American soldiers, without any involvement by Thais. Alfred W. McCoy, the author of "Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia," said Jackson used GIs who had returned home and GIs in Thailand to smuggle heroin into the United States, concealing it in U.S. Army and Air Force pouches.

On 5 April 1971, customs officials at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, seized a package of 7.7 kilograms of W-0 Globe heroin, valued at about \$1.75 million in the United States, which had been smuggled in a U.S. Army pouch. The large profit made from heroin trafficking is its main attraction. Most American military officials arrested by the police confessed, "I intended

to stop after earning \$100,000 to buy a house, boat, car, and a gas station in California."

Since it is the Americans who have made heroin trafficking so prosperous in Southeast Asia, why do they allege that Thailand is the most dangerous source of heroin in the world?

If I have to answer that question, I would say that a person who amuses himself by setting fire to other people's houses can only cry out when he sees the fire spread to his own house, because he only knows how to start the fire but not to control it.

Despite the great progress and prosperity it has achieved, as well as the power of its mass media to slander the reputation of any other country in the twinkling of an eye, the United States is not able to extinguish the fire burning its own clothes; that fire will finally kill the United States some time in the future.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

AMERICAN HEROIN SMUGGLERS GET PRISON TERMS

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 Dec 76 pp 1, 3 BK

[Text] Former Bangkok bar manager James Warren Smedley (57) and 24-year-old U.S. serviceman Jasper Myrick yesterday received heavy prison terms after the criminal court found them guilty of attempting to smuggle 45 kilograms of No 4 heroin out of the country.

Smedley was sentenced to life imprisonment, and Myrick was jailed for 33 years and 4 months.

The young serviceman initially drew a life term also, but the court reduced it after noting his confession of guilt and taking into account the fact that his testimony had been beneficial to the case.

Their court appearance yesterday brought down the curtain on a trafficking ring, described as one of the biggest in the world, which was said to have smuggled millions of dollars of heroin from Thailand to United States since the late 1960s.

Myrick, a former clerk at the Windsor Hotel when it was run by the U.S. military, was arrested at his rented home in Soi Ekkamai on October 16 last year after U.S. customs officials discovered 45 kilograms of heroin concealed in furniture he was shipping home to the United States.

Six days after Myrick's arrest, Smedley--former owner of Jack's American Star Bar on Phetchaburi Road--was taken into custody on the basis of testimony the serviceman gave police interrogators.

The seizure, then the biggest ever made in Thailand, set off a chain reaction in the United States, leading to the arrest and conviction of principals on the American end of the connection.

The traffickers are said to have used home-bound U.S. military flights and U.S. mails to ship the heroin to the United States, helped in many cases by couriers.

Myrick told the court that he agreed to ship Smedley's furniture to the United States because he always regarded him "as a father." He said he also owed Smedley gambling debts and could not repay it.

He claimed the older man had said he would be paid two million baht if he delivered the heroin safely in the U.S.

The court said in its findings that it did not think Myrick would accuse Smedley of being owner of the furniture and heroin if it was not true because the two men had never had any personal conflict.

An employee of Sukhumvit Furniture on Sukhumvit Road told the court that Smedley, together with American Rudolf Valentino Jennings, and a Thai, Luchai Luwiwat, had specified secret compartments when they ordered the furniture.

She identified the three men by pictures shown to her by police.

Jennings is serving a 10-year jail term in Raleigh, North Carolina, on the same charge, and Luchai is serving 30 years in San Francisco for smuggling one kilogram of No 4 heroin into the United States.

The witness also took police to Myrick's house, where she said the shop had delivered the five pieces of furniture. Luchai delivered the sixth piece himself.

Myrick's wife, Valerie, said in testimony her husband told her that Smedley had offered him \$500 to ship the six pieces of furniture, consisting of cabinets and tables, to Fort Benning in Georgia where he would pick them up later.

She said the shop delivered five pieces in July last year, and Luchai brought the sixth.

In its summary, the court referred to testimony given by U.S. drug enforcement administration agents Jerry Numemaker, Andrew Jackson, and John R. Doyle of Smedley's involvement in the drug trade and the fact that he was joint owner of Jack's American Star Bar with Leslie Atkinson, William Herman Jackson, and Luchai.

Atkinson is serving 25 years jail in North Carolina, and Jackson is serving 30 years in Denver on drug trafficking charges.

The court said that from this testimony, and that given by other witnesses, it was obvious the two men were planning to smuggle the 45 kilograms to the United States.



CSO: 5300

THAILAND

DRUG SUPPRESSION SOURCE REPORTS ON RECENT ARRESTS

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 7 Jan 77 p 3 BK

[Text] Three alleged major drug traffickers have recently been arrested in Ayutthaya Province, a source from the Narcotics Suppression Center reported yesterday.

The source gave no details of the arrests but said that the three were "major merchants of narcotics, one of the rare cases in which the core of the trading network was arrested."

Police identified the three accused as Mrs Rattana Kanchanasurot, Mrs Meo Kewo Sae Hiap, and Mrs Chiam Sae Hao.

The source said it had been a formidable task for anti-drug agents to arrest the "big fish" since "these people are highly influential in their own field."

He said the highest number of arrests had been made at Don Muang Airport.

"Sometimes, we know for sure who the major sources of the trade are but we can't get at them because of the lack of sufficient evidence to prosecute them," the source said.

The source expressed the confidence that when the narcotics prevention and suppression committee is formed under the direct supervision of the prime minister, anti-drug operations would be made more efficient. The source also said the visit of Dutch Justice Minister A.A.M. van Agt should go a long way to boost cooperation between the two countries in suppressing international narcotics trade.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

STRICTER PUNISHMENT DEMANDED FOR COURIERS, TRAFFICKERS

Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 5 Jan 77 p 4 BK

[Editorial: "Now It's the Italian Connection"]

[Text] More than 20 kilograms of heroin were seized, and those who carried them were arrested, at Don Muang Airport separately yesterday. They were bound for Rome, Italy, and Hong Kong. Since those arrested were young people, a Thai girl and two Malaysian youths, it is clear that they are just couriers who are paid by traffickers in business. Those destined for the British crown colony was a regular shipment but the one shipped for Rome was a new line of traffic on top of the French and Netherlands connections. Now, finally, we have the Italian connection.

We have suggested time and again that severest punishment, like those enforced in Singapore, must be laid down on traffickers and couriers. The sentence to long years of imprisonment given two American negroes last week was most appropriate. We cannot afford to let this threat of national security to carry on. The personal health and safety of thousands of our people are at stake. And society has few judgements too severe, few penalties too harsh for the men who make their livelihood in the narcotics traffic.

Drug traffickers recognize no national boundaries. The activities of international drug syndicates usually cover a number of countries. The drug problem has security implications. There is evidence that drugs have been used as a weapon for subversion either to weaken the resilience of the population, particularly the young, or as a source of finance to buy arms and hire agents for subversive activities. Legal provisions must be followed by effective enforcement if drug traffickers are to be discouraged from carrying on their trade.

Singapore is now engaged in an all-out war against growing drug abuse and trafficking. Last year, the island republic imposed the death penalty for persons convicted of trafficking in more than only 15 grammes of heroin or more than 30 grammes of morphine. The law was enacted because of the growing drug problem in Singapore in recent years. In 1972, only four persons were

arrested for suspected heroin offenses. The figure escalated to 2,284 in the first half of last year.

In our country, reports say that there are addicts among government officials. This is a security risk. In order to satisfy their craving, they have to spend an average of 50 baht a day to buy drugs, and they will do everything to gain this amount even if they have to leak out government secrets. As we say, the abuse of drugs has become from essentially a local police problem into a serious national threat which must be stamped out soonest.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

THAI POLICE OFFICIAL GIVES 1976 DRUG ARREST FIGURES

Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 12 Jan 77 BK

[Interview with Police Lt Gen Wichian Saengkaeo, Bangkok metropolitan police commissioner, on 1976 drug arrests--recorded]

[Text] Narcotics abuse is a major problem, not only at the national level, but worldwide. We, in the Metropolitan Police, have tried to suppress narcotics, particularly producers and traffickers. Statistics on drug arrests for 1976 are as follows: we made arrests in two cases on charges of being a producer, with four suspects. This seems to be rather a small number. On charges of trafficking, we had 1,099 cases with 1,271 suspects; on charges of being drug addicts we had 589 cases with 1,095 suspects; on charges of possession we had 12,356 cases with 12,849 suspects. The total number of arrests for the four categories is 14,046 cases with 15,219 suspects.

The direct result of these drug arrests has been that the rate of various types of crimes, particularly against property, has been reduced. This is because we have kept these sorts of people isolated from society to prevent them from committing crimes again. In particular, most of those suspected of being drug addicts are likely to be those who commit crimes against property--stealing or purse-snatching, for example. Therefore, it can be said that arresting drug addicts and isolating them from society means arresting those likely to commit crimes against property.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

BRIEFS

PLAN NARCOTICS COURTS--Yesterday morning (3 January) Justice Minister Sema Rattanamalai granted an interview to our reporter on the government's plan to set up special courts to try specific cases. Asked if there is any obstacle to setting up special courts to try narcotics cases, the justice minister said: The Justice Ministry is prepared to set up special courts in accordance with the government's plan, but the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration has not yet chosen the construction sites. We will begin to implement this task immediately after the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration chooses the sites. Justice Minister Sema Rattanamalai continued: Actually, narcotics courts should already have been set up because there are now so many drug cases. If the government builds or expands the Latyao Jail, it will be convenient to set up the narcotics courts there. Asked if the government plans to set up special courts to try administrative and the labor cases, the justice minister replied that Thailand faces economic problems and that administrative and labor courts should be set up when the economic situation improves. [Text] [Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 4 Jan 77 p 1 BK]

MEO TRIBESMAN ARRESTED--Chiang Mai--Twenty-eight kilos of morphine was seized yesterday when provincial police officers raided a hill tribe man's house here in Tambon Mae Wan of San Pa Tong District. Owner of the house who was arrested in the search was identified as Mokhae Arai, a Meo tribesman. Provincial Police led by deputy commander of the provincial police Region 3 raided Mokhae's house in Nam Yen village and found 14 sticks of morphine No 999 hidden in the ceiling. [Text] [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 11 Jan 77 p 1 BK]

HEROIN IN SOYBEAN SHELLS--Phayathai police arrested a 34-year-old man on Sunday for attempting to smuggle heroin into jail. Mengheng Sae Chiu was caught with 12 tubes of heroin secretly hidden in soybean shells, supposedly for a friend of his detained at the Phayathai police station. Mengheng had earlier been detained at the police station for possession of marijuana but was released later in the morning. Sgt Charoen Phosawat became suspicious when he returned later with a paperbag of soybeans which he said was for Thirayut Sangaruangrit, a detainee held on drug charges. After a thorough check, 12 tubes of heroin were found hidden in the shells. Mengheng was rearrested and charged with drug possession. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Jan 77 p 3 BK]

HEROIN ARREST--Pol Sup Lt Prakhan Songsaengfa, Phaya Thai District police station duty officer, and other accompanying policemen arrested Miss Wiyada Phumamnuai, 17, on 22 December in room 604, sixth floor of Siam flat at 616 Kingphet Lane, Phaya Thai District. Heroin in white powder form weighing 0.3 kilogram and 9 empty tubes were discovered in her room. She was delivered to Pol Capt Phanlop Suwannarat, duty officer, for further prosecution. Mrs. Kanda Waisanon, 22, and Mrs Suphawan Bunnak, 19, followed Miss Wiyada to the police station. Kanda began to criticize Suphawan, alleging that Suphawan reported Wiyada's activities to the police. They quarreled vehemently and began to fight but were separated by the police. They were fined 100 baht each for using vulgar language. They lived in the room next to Wiyada at the flat. [Text] [Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 23 Dec 76 p 16 BK]

COURIER TO EUROPE--A 45-year-old Thai of Chinese origin, arrested Thursday at the Prince Hotel with two kilograms of heroin, told police he had been hired by a Malaysian friend to deliver the drugs to Europe. Chin Atsaniwthikon, owner of "Kasem Phanit," a grocery shop in Phyathai, was nabbed with a brown box containing Thai dolls when he stepped down from his car at 4.00 pm. Police found two kilograms of No 3 heroin stuffed in the dolls. They estimated the price at 80,000 baht--or 16 million baht in the European black market. Police said Chin was to send the heroin to Italy but was apprehended before he could have the narcotics sent out. Anti-drug agents had been tailing Chin after tipoffs that he had acted suspiciously. Chin told police he had been hired for 10,000 baht to do the job, but police cast doubt on his statement claiming that he had been on the suspect list for quite some time as having close connection with major drug traffickers. Police later in the day searched Chin's house and found a large number of similar brown boxes--but no illegal materials. His passport showed that Chin had been travelling quite often to Hong Kong and Rome. [Text] [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 8 Jan 77 p 3 BK]

TWO SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION--The Criminal Court sentenced a Chinese-Malaysian to 26 years and 8 months imprisonment, and an Australian to 6 months, yesterday after finding them guilty of possessing heroin. The Malaysian, C. Won Hong (49), was arrested in Bangrak District on March 22 last year with 22.705 kilograms of heroin, valued at 681,150 baht. The court sentenced him to 40 years but later reduced it to 26 years and 8 months after he confessed to the charge. The Australian, Ernest Venture (29), was arrested at Don Muang on his arrival from Indonesia on August 2 with 0.28 grams valued at 26.60 baht. The court at first jailed him for 1 year but later reduced the term to 6 months after he confessed. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Dec 76 p 5 BK]

TWO HEROIN PUSHERS--Bowon Mongkhon police yesterday arrested two heroin pushers and seized about 50 grams of No 4 heroin near the boat crossing in thieves area. The two men, Prasong Licharoen and Wichian Kraipradit, were arrested while trying to sell the heroin being carried in six tubes and 21 short drinking straws. They were detained for interrogation at Bowon Monkhan police station. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Jan 77 p 3 BK]

DRUGS-BY-MAIL SMUGGLING--The Post and Telegraph Department has reported discovery of "three to four cases a month" of narcotics and marijuana sent out of Thailand through the postal service. Deputy Director General Chao Thongma told the NATION REVIEW that most of the "drugs-by-mail" cases were found to have been mailed by "hippie-looking tourists." "Such mail is very easy to detect," the deputy director general said, "the smell is everywhere once the postbox is opened." Mr Chao said once an envelope is found with illegal narcotics, the director-general of the Post and Telegraph Department would be immediately informed about it. "The normal procedure is that the director general would deliver the envelopes to police for legal actions," the deputy director general said. Several cases of drugs-by-mail have been discovered recently following tipoffs from other countries that certain international racketeers had resorted to postal service to avoid the glaring eyes of authorities in the region. Mr Chao did not say whether some of the narcotics destined abroad had gone through the post office unnoticed. [Text] [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 29 Dec 76 p 3 BK]

AIRBORNE RAID FAILS--Border Patrol Police failed to arrest heroin producers on the Thakong Hill, Chiang Rai Province, but found weapons and ammunitions. Fifteen policemen led by commander of the Third Region Border Patrol Police, Pol Maj Gen Wichai Wichaihanaphat went by three helicopters from Dara Ratsami Camp, Chiang Mai, to Thakong Hill, Mae Chan District, where police had a tipoff that there was a factory producing heroin. When factory workers sighted the helicopters they burnt the factory and equipment and narrowly escaped the police into dense forest. Police found two carbines with seven rounds of ammunition, and bullets of M-16 assault rifles, plus some 173 magazines, two of dynamite. [Text] [Bangkok MORNING EXPRESS in English 7 Jan 77 p 1 BK]

CSO: 5300

VIETNAM

BRIEFS

DRUG ADDICT TREATMENT CONFERENCE--On 28 December, the Ho Chi Minh City Public Health Service held a conference to report on the treatment of drug addicts. Doctors of the Binh Trieu drug addict treatment center reported some initial results of their treatment method over the past year. The method basically consists of organizing healthy social activities for the addicts, severing all sources of drug supply, and using acupuncture, oriental medicines, physical exercises and psychological measures to help the addicts quit their bad habits. [Ho Chi Minh City Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0245 GMT 30 Dec 76 BK]

CSO: 5300

BOLIVIA

BRIEFS

SENTENCE FOR DRUG TRAFFICKER--Potosi, 3 Jan--Julio Challapa Choque and Julian Flores were sentenced, the latter in absentia, to 20 years in prison and were also fined 50,000 pesos each. Both Bolivian citizens were caught in flagrante in the cocaine trade. Cocaine weighing 3½ kg was confiscated. [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 4 Jan 77 p 6 PY]

CHILE

BRIEFS

COCAINE TRAFFICKERS--The civilian police have captured three drug traffickers and seized 3 kg of cocaine coming from Bolivia. [Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 11 Jan 77 PY]

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

COCAINE SEIZURE--Bogota, 15 Jan--Lucrecia Ester Irazeta and Lorena Pinzas Diaz, two Peruvians who arrived at El Dorado Airport from Lima, were arrested for possession of 95 percent pure cocaine valued at \$135,000 found in their luggage. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0231 GMT 16 Jan 77 PA]

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

SPECIAL AGENTS SENT TO INVESTIGATE DRUG OPERATIONS

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 11 Dec 76 p 6-A

/Text/ A group of special Federal Judicial Police from the Department of Narcotics arrived here from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon to conduct a thorough investigation of the drug traffic, according to information obtained by EL DIARIO yesterday.

The group of narcotics agents was sent and given specific instructions by Chief Radilla in Monterrey. According to our source, this step was taken because of the unsatisfactory work by Federal Judicial Police agents Francisco Fernandez Marin and Jesus Godoy Garcia.

The arrest of Humberto de los Angeles Gutierrez and dentist Mario Alberto Fernandez Faz by local detectives clearly shows the existence of the drug traffic here in Piedras Negras. Shortly after the addict and his supplier were arrested by investigation agents under Vicente Rojas, they were turned over to federal prosecutor Gonzalo Ochoa Franco. On Thursday evening the two men were questioned at length but no information was made available to the press.

The special Federal Judicial Police agents from the Department of Narcotics are here to investigate the drug traffic directly. It is a known fact that there are several drug dealers that are poisoning the young people of Piedras Negras. There was a lot of activity at the Federal Public Ministry yesterday after the supplier and the buyer were placed in their custody by the local police.

Since Francisco Marin and Jesus Godoy assumed their posts here, the drug fight has not been as intensive as it was under Gonzalo Urrutia and Jose Luis Castillo's tenure.

8599
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

PRESUMED TRAFFICKERS MACHINEGUNNED

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 1 Dec 76 p 31-A

Article by EXCELSIOR correspondent Roberto Martinez Montenegro

Text Culiacan, Sinaloa, 30 Nov--The brothers Severiano, Santiago, and Gabriel Leal Perez were found dead today on lateral 37, between the Pinole and Rosales checkpoints, 14 kilometers from this city. Considered when alive to be narcotics traffickers, they were killed by bursts from machine guns. The three were attacked from behind, and their faces disfigured by bullets.

The victims were residents of the town of Tecolotes in the municipality of Culiacan.

The sister of the three men said that last night a group of 20 armed men, who represented themselves as Judicial Police agents, appeared at their house under the pretext of arresting them for crimes connected with the narcotics traffic. The men carried machine guns as well as pistols of different calibers and took the brothers away dressed in their underwear, as it was late at night.

The police assume that the affair has to do with a "settlement of accounts between narcotics traffickers." Found at the scene of the crime were empty beer cans, leading to the assumption that the murderers got their victims drunk shortly before putting them to death. The Judicial Police are investigating in order to clear up the matter.

The municipal police inspector of Culiancito (the township where the bodies were found), Jose Lorenzo Moreno Hernandez, said that the assassination was carried out savagely, the bodies were disfigured by bullets, they were attacked from behind, and one of them even had his head severed from his body by the shots.

11532
CSO: 5300

MEXICO

FOREIGN TRAFFICKING, PROSTITUTION RING BUSTED

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 24 Nov 76 p 10

Text 7 The narcotics squad of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic apprehended 11 persons, including 7 foreign women, who were operating in various prisons in the capital as narcotics traffickers and prostitutes catering to criminals.

In addition to the fact that they are in Mexico illegally, they consorted solely with foreign prisoners.

The narcotics squad reported that it arrested the group last night when it was engaged in an orgy at Rio Balsas 99, apartment 100, in the Zona Rosa.

The judicial agents later moved on to Barranca del Muerto and caught a French woman and two Mexicans in another orgy.

Bertie Katitrynn Melero, Jane Ann Iteiceiman, Mary Claude Gouffier, Jae Buest, Nandi Canin, Betsy Cole, and Elizabeth Broad stated during the first interrogations that several friends (they did not give their names) had in fact engaged them to "work" in Mexico as prostitutes for inmates in the prisons of the metropolis.

"We sometimes took drugs in and sold them. We would enter as the ostensible wives of the criminals on the days for conjugal visits, not for just one but for several of them," the arrested women added when speaking to the police officers who seized several kilos of marihuana, cocaine and heroin, as well as expired passports, 30 pipes, and other objects from them at the time they were caught.

"Additionally, those who hired us also put us to work in various apartments in the Zona Rosa," they added.

With respect to Leopoldo Luna Andrade, Jorge Neri Cruz Elliott Allen, and Stephany Weiner, also under arrest, they are only middlemen for contacting foreign prisoners in the city.

In order not to jeopardize the respective investigations, the narcotics squad withheld identification of the brothels in which the women mentioned were working and of those running that business.



A group of foreigners, including seven women who were engaged in prostitution and the narcotics traffic in various prisons in the country, while the men were also engaged in the sale of drugs, was captured yesterday by the narcotics squad of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic.
(Photo by Manuel Aldaraca)

11532
CSO: 5300

MEXICO

POLICE ARREST HEROIN TRAFFICKER MEMBER OF CULIACAN-BASED RING

Piedras Negras DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 19 Nov 76 p 1-A

[Text] Alfredo Rivera Lara, who was arrested by Federal Judicial Police agents in the Hotel Santos, will be consigned today to the District Court--said Federal Public Ministry Agent Gonzalo Ochoa Franco--and it is likely that on this very day he will make his preliminary statement in connection with charges brought against him for health crimes in the form of heroin possession, transportation and trafficking.

Rivera Lara was arrested here after DEA agents arrested in Eagle Pass, Texas, Gustavo Hernandez Zavala from whom they confiscated 20 ounces of pure heroin. A certain amount of the same drug is reported to have been confiscated from Rivera Lara.

The arrested man has made a confession and is reported to have told the federal prosecutor that this was his first job. In the course of the investigation Alfredo Rivera Lara denounced the drug ring, of which he is a member, which operates in Culiacan, Sinaloa.

In view of the fact that after making a sale to Gustavo Hernandez Zavala, he still had some heroin left, one can assume that Rivera Lara intended to make another sale in the locality to get rid of the drug found on him by the Federal Judicial Police.



Alfredo Rivera Lara, after making his statement to Federal Public Ministry Agent Gonzalo Ochoa Franco, was transferred to the preventive jail by an auxiliary agent of the Federal Judicial Police. The arrested man, who is a member of a drug ring in Culiacan, Sinaloa, was to be consigned today to the District Court where he will make his preliminary statement.

8796
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

BRIEFS

DRUG FIGHT INTENSIFIED--Federal Judicial Police agents assigned to Matamoros are closely patrolling the Bravo River on a daily basis in order to prevent the traffic of drugs between the two borders. The Federal Judicial Police, under Group Chief Guillermo Sanchez patrols the banks of the Bravo River day and night and checks the locations known to be used by drug traffickers to cross the river with the drugs. For about 3 months, and following instructions from Federal Prosecutor Fernando Adgardo Velazquez Espinosa, the Federal Judicial Police agents and their group chief have conducted daily patrols of the Bravo River with encouraging and successful results. The fight against drug trafficking, which started last year with remarkable results, has been stepped up in the last 3 months. Now looking back over that period, the results are that there has not been a single case involving recently produced drugs but many cases of persons arrested for drug trafficking or drug addiction. Unfortunately, according to the experts, the regional fight against traffickers needs more men and better mechanical equipment. Right now the Federal Judicial Police lacks them for reasons that escape most of the population of the municipality. If the police force had the means which it now lacks, the anti-drug campaign could achieve better and more positive results. [Text] [Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 16 Nov 76 p 8-A] 8796

MARIHUANA FIELDS DESTROYED--More than 22 marihuana fields were destroyed 2 days ago by Federal Judicial Police Narcotics Department agents who have been engaged in an intensive campaign to stamp out cultivation of the grass which has become widespread in various areas of our state. The fields were planted in an area covering 45,000 square meters equal to a total of 4 and 1/2 hectares and when the plants were destroyed they had grown to a height of 1.8 meters. The marihuana was found in the settlement of San Pablo Guila and in the neighborhood of the Grande River in the small settlements of Totolapam and Tlacolula de Matamoros. The now sprayed fields were destroyed with herbicides which have been used since the beginning of the campaign. This information was released to EL IMPARCIAL by Rafael Diaz Albores, commander of the force, who added that the campaign is being continuously carried out and will not be abandoned until all the marihuana fields existing in the state are totally destroyed. [Text] [Oaxaca EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 19 Nov 76 pp 1, 8] 8796

DRUG INCINERATION--Jaime Torres Espinoza, Federal Public Ministry agent assigned to the State Third District Court, has announced that a large amount of narcotic drugs will be burned and destroyed this week. The official said that during the last few days he has gathered information concerning the exact amount of marihuana, heroin and other drugs placed in custody with the army. He has also requested permission for the immediate destruction of the drugs from the district judges dealing with court cases involving drug seizures. Approximately 2 tons of marihuana are in custody at the "Macario Zamora" military barracks and about 2 kilos of heroin held in the Health Center are also ready to be destroyed. These drugs were confiscated by the Federal Judicial Police in the uninterrupted anti-drug campaign ordered by Attorney General of the Republic Pedro Ojeda Paullada. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 15 Nov 76 p 3-B] 8796

DRUG TRAFFICKER DENIES CHARGES--Sergio Acosta Valdez was the middleman who made payments for the shipments of narcotics and drugs which he obtained in Culiacan, Sinaloa. He had been working for a long time under the orders of his accomplices Jesus Aviles Palma and Armando Ochoa Guillman. Acosta Valdez claims that he was unjustly arrested by the Federal Judicial Police and that he has never run afoul of the law. However, that individual was sentenced in Kansas City in 1965 and in Los Angeles in 1967 for health crimes. In 1968, he went to trial in Leavenworth, Texas, where he served a prison term of 4 years on similar charges. In July of this year he was arrested in Culiacan, Sinaloa, for similar crimes. He was released by the First District Court of that town when the court's titular head failed to find enough evidence to issue a formal order of imprisonment. In addition, it is reported that his accomplices escaped with the heroin and probably went into the sierra where they are already being sought. It is firmly believed that they have equipment to process the drug in the districts of Chihuahua and Sinaloa. Acosta Valdez, along with Aviles Palma and Ochoa Guillman, will be remanded today to the Second District Court. [Text] [Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 17 Nov 76 p 6-A] 8796

TRAFFICKER'S ESCAPE--Hermosillo, 18 Nov. A dangerous drug trafficker and car thief, whom agents of the Department of Investigations helping the Federal Judicial Police had arrested in a motel of this town where he apparently had established his distribution center, escaped yesterday morning in full daylight from the cell which he shared with other federal prisoners at the Police and Municipal Transit General Headquarters. The escaped criminal is Angel Navarro Burrola who had been arrested only 24 hours earlier in room 20 of the El Encanto Motel with a package containing heroin, a hypodermic needle, Mandra pills and 26,830 pesos, in bills of various denominations, obtained from the sale of heroin. Agents of the Federal Judicial Police, the State Judicial Police and the Municipal Police are looking for this dangerous individual who will try to reach Culiacan, Sinaloa, where he will be undoubtedly protected by members of the mafia-like organization. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 19 Nov 76 p 4] 8796

DRUG SENTENCE--Fernando A. Yates Valdez, Second District Court judge, sentenced Ernesto Guerra Esparza to a prison term of 5 years and 3 months for possession of marihuana and opium. The man was arrested by Federal Judicial Police agents on the 26th of February this year when he went to a bar called Club Denny's located in the Valle de Juarez. [Text] [Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 17 Nov 76 p 7-A] 8796

FIREARMS SENTENCE--The federal prisoner, Jose Barragan Meza was sentenced to serve 1 year in prison and fined 10,000 pesos or 2 additional months in prison if he fails to pay the fine, because he was found legally responsible of the crime of violating the Federal Firearms and Explosives Law. This sentence was passed yesterday by Juan Munoz Sanchez, titular head of the Third District State Court, who noted that the existing evidence was sufficient to convict him. The report shows that Barragan Meza was arrested on 17 July 1976 when he tried to enter the country in a 1972 Ford van accompanied by Felipe Morales, who was driving the vehicle. When they conducted a thorough search of the van, the Customs Station agents found concealed in various compartments a large amount of cartridges and weapons of various calibers as well as other foreign made goods. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 18 Nov 76 p 3-B] 8796

MARIHUANA TRAFFICKERS SENTENCED--By verdict of the Third District State Court Judge Juan Munoz Sanchez, the accused David Robles Anguiano, alias "El Flaco," and Tomas Bernade Alvarez have been pronounced legally responsible of health crimes--the first man on counts of transport and traffic of marihuana and the second on the count of transport of the same drug. On the basis of evidence brought forward by the Federal Public Ministry to substantiate these felons' guilt, the judge ruled that the evidence was sufficient to declare them guilty. He sentenced David Robles to a prison term of 7 years and 6 months and a 20,000 pesos fine; and Bernade Alvarez to 6 years and 6 months in prison and a fine of 15,000 pesos. The two men were captured by the Federal Judicial Police in the village of Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas when they came to collect three cardboard boxes full of marihuana, which they had previously shipped there from Arteaga, Michoacan. The events that led to their arrest started when the federal agents, in conjunction with members of the Mexican National Army, established a check-point on the road from Matamoros to Ciudad Victoria near the "La Union" Ranch. During the search of a vehicle, the federal agents found three boxes of marihuana in the luggage compartment, but their owner was not traveling on the bus, which was allowed to proceed carrying the drug and a policeman who would show the drug when it reached its destination to federal agents waiting in the parcels depot of the bus terminal in Ciudad Rio Bravo. Soon after the boxes were unloaded from the bus, two men came to claim the drug. They were David Robles Anguiano, alias "El Flaco" and Tomas Bernade Alvarez who confessed that they had purchased the marihuana in the "Los Avicos" Ranch of Arteaga, Michoacan. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 18 Nov 76 p 3-B] 8796

NEW DEPUTY COMMANDER--Lt Col Javier Martinez Elizalde has been named deputy commander of the 1st Infantry Battalion by the Secretariat of National Defense. He replaces Lt Col Alberto Alonso Rodriguez who has been named deputy commander of the 52nd Infantry Battalion in Chihuahua City. Prior to this assignment, Lieutenant Colonel Martinez Elizalde was the commander of the VI Cavalry Corps for Rural Defense in Madera, Chihuahua. He will join the 1st Infantry Battalion today but there will be no special ceremony. /Excerpts/ Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 9 Dec 76 p 3-B/ 8599

MARIHUANA ARRESTS IN CUERNAVACA--Cuernavaca, Morelos, 24 Nov--Federal police agents have taken into custody a ring of narcotics traffickers, seized a demi-john containing marihuana seed, and destroyed a field of marihuana. The arrest was made at a house at Pradera 190, in the eastern part of the city. The members of the ring were in no condition to put up resistance, as the agents caught them at the height of a drunken spree. Those arrested are Arturo Lopez Rafael, Rafael Gonzalez, Amado Ocampo, Roberto Delgado, Alfredo Guemes, and Pamela Juara, of Japanese nationality. The owners of the property where the marihuana was grown, Denerice and Pedro Ehrenberg, are fugitives. All six put under arrest were taken to the Federal Judicial Police cells and will be placed in the custody of the agent of the Federal Public Ministry, charged with offenses against moral welfare, trafficking in drugs, and their ensuing results. /Text/ Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 25 Nov 76 p 26-A/ 11532

CRASH OF MARIHUANA-LADEN PLANE--Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, 25 Nov--A light plane loaded with 700 kilograms of marihuana crashed near the village of San Buenaventura, 10 kilometers from this city. The crew of the Cessna aircraft, registered as XBUIH, fled from the scene, and the authorities assume they are badly injured. The commander of the Judicial Police in the state, Margarito Mendez Rico, said that the smugglers did not have time to burn the plane or its cargo, as they have done on other occasions in order to destroy all evidence. Agents and soldiers are carrying out a search through the area, as it is believed the smugglers are hiding out in some location near the spot where the aircraft fell. The police chief said it is a white plane with yellow markings, the same one that has often been observed flying over the area, which also led the agents to assume that its owner lives in the region. /Text/ Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 26 Nov 76 p 30-A/ 11532

MARIHUANA FOR U.S. INTERCEPTED--Guadalajara, Jalisco, 29 Nov--The Federal Judicial Police intercepted on the highway to Zacatecas a shipment of marihuana, in packages of 1 kilogram each, that was being transported to McAllen, Texas. Additionally, the federal agents arrested two persons and impounded a light truck with Texas license plates DV-9844. The men under arrest are Bernal Alvarez, the driver of the truck, and Ramon Cedano Calderon. Bernal told the agents he was paid \$70.00 for each package delivered in McAllen to a man whom he only knows by the name of Santos. He said Cedano Calderon is the owner of the marihuana and that he was the one who hired him to make the trips. Cedano Calderon denied the charges and said it was Bernal who obtained the marihuana and later sold it. /Text/ Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 30 Nov 76 p 32-A/ 11532

HEROIN SEIZURE IN TIJUANA--Tijuana, Baja California, 3 Dec--The Federal Ju-
dicial Police today confiscated in this city powdered heroin worth more than
5 million pesos on the black market. They also arrested two alleged narcot-
ics dealers, Enrique Sojo Acosta, 29, and Prisciliano Perez Gutierrez, 36.
The latter combined his profession of cabdriver with that of narcotics deal-
er. Sojo had 39 grams of heroin in his possession, which he said had been
sold him by the cabdriver Perez Gutierrez, from whom a kilo of pure heroin
was seized when he was arrested later. The two men were placed in the cus-
tody of the office of the federal prosecutor. Text Mexico City EXCELSIOR
in Spanish 4 Dec 76 p 27-A 11532

CSO: 5300

IRAN

NARCOTICS ARRESTS SINCE BEGINNING OF YEAR

Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 21 Nov 76 p 22

[Text] The national police antinarcotics administration has announced the statistics on narcotics which its officers and commissioners have made since the beginning of the current year.

According to these statistics, 56.9 kilograms of heroin, 1,160 kilograms of opium, 571.9 kilograms of hashish, 6,729 narcotic pills, 4 liters of acid for making heroin, and 1,415 opium-smoking devices have been discovered during the past 8 months.

During that period, four heroin-manufacturing laboratories were destroyed, and altogether 11,250 persons who were engaged in selling, distributing, making, and using narcotics were arrested.

The administration also announced that 37 sellers, [word indistinct], and users of narcotics were arrested in Teheran yesterday and that a quantity of pills, narcotics, and opium-using devices were discovered in their possession.

CSO: 5300

IRAN

NARCOTICS ARRESTS IN TEHERAN, ESFAHAN, AND KAN

Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Nov 76 p 22

[Text] Esfahan--Recently, Esfahan police antinarcotics commissioners arrested the following persons, who had come from Teheran and Khuzestan some time earlier and were operating here:

Asghar Soturaki (also known as Asghar Jimi), at Chahar Bagh Avenue with 14 packages of herion in his possession.

Mortaza Tavakkolian and Bahram Heydarpur, on Chahar Bagh Avenue with 16 packages of heroin in their possession.

Manuchehr Hanjar, on Darvazeh Dowlat Street with 5 packages of heroin in his possession.

Sa'id Karamati, on Siah Street, with 13 packages of heroin in his possession.

Mohsen Qadiri-Gholami, on Darvazeh Dowlat Street with 11 packages of heroin in his possession.

Mohammad Kazemi, with 2 packages of heroin in his possession.

Mahdi Nowruzi, with 16 centigrams of heroin in his possession.

Akbar Fattahi, with 15 centigrams of heroin in his possession.

Teheran--Yesterday, police antinarcotics administration officers arrested the following persons:

A construction draftsman named Albert and his brother Robert, engaged in dealing in narcotics, such as opium juice and heroin, and in devices used in [taking] heroin.

Hasan, son of 'Abbas, a jewelry merchant living in Sultanabad, Simineh-rud Street, and Mahmud, 18 years old, who lives on Zia'i Street, Navab, in the act of taking heroin.

Dossiers were prepared on all of these arrested person, who were then taken to the police station pending action of the judicial authorities.

In Kan, the chief of the Gendarmerie post on Zibashahr became suspicious of Zhian automobile No. 45869, which was moving with two occupants in it, and ordered the driver to halt. The driver ignored the order and continued to move, and the chief was obliged to bring it to a stop by opening fire on it and puncturing a tire.

After being arrested, the two occupants of the car, named Reza and Hassam, admitted that they had ignored the order to halt because they had packages of heroin in the car. A quantity of heroin and materials pertaining to the use of it was taken from them.

CSO: 5300

IRAN

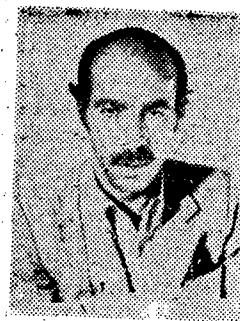
POLICE SEIZE 180 PACKAGES OF HEROIN IN ARRESTS

Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 21 Nov 76 p 22

[Excerpts] Recently, police antinarcotics officers arrested the following persons in various parts of Teheran:

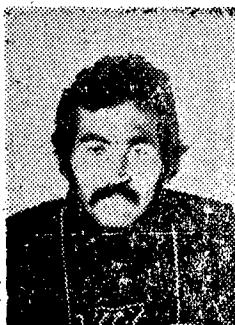


1. Asadollah Soleymani, 20 years old, a medical assistant in private clinics, with 30 packages of heroin in his possession.



2. 'Aziz Garmkhurani 40 years old, a drug company employee, in the act of selling 9 packages of heroin.

3. Valiollah Shahbazi, 21 years old, with 126 packages of heroin in his possession.



داریوش کاویانی

4. Daryush Kaviani, 36 years old, a teacher, with 15 packages of heroin in his possession.



مسعود حساس

5. Mas'ud Hassas, 20 years old, with a quantity of heroin in his possession.

CSO: 5300

IRAN

DRUG RELATED ARRESTS IN TEHERAN AND OTHER CITIES

Teheran ETELA'AT in Persian 19 Dec 76 p 22

Text Last week, the police trapped and turned over with dossiers to the judicial authorities 52 people in Teheran and other cities on charges of involvement in the narcotics traffic -- distribution, sale, purchase, use and setting-up places for use. During this same week, statistics were published by the Police Department's Anti-Narcotics Squad regarding the people active in the narcotics traffic in Teheran from the 4th of Ordibehesht [24 April 1976] to the 15th of Azer [6 December 1976]. Based on these statistics, which also provide an interesting study, in Teheran alone 1,172 people were arrested.

Among those arrested were 54 women, 81 male employees, 14 male artisans, 44 school pupils and college students, 103 laborers, 181 drivers, 649 tradesmen, 41 unemployed people and five people with higher educations -- engineer, doctor, licentiate and translator. The statistics on the age of those arrested show that most of them are between 18 and 30 years of age.

Last week, one female and five male smugglers, who some time ago had organized in Tabriz for the distribution of heroin, were arrested. This group had infiltrated mostly among the youth of Tabriz, and a large quantity of heroin and other narcotics were discovered on them when they were arrested.

Ibrahim Baghban Azhari, Akbar Khoshkbar Ibrahimi, Hassan Lachrani, Habib Asheghi, Mohammed Kheyali, also known as Mohammed Toupal, and a woman named Malihah Siyahpoush were members of the band.

A husband and wife smuggling team were also trapped in Rezaiyeh with 20 grams of heroin. Sixty-four grams of heroin were also found in the search of the home of this husband and wife team, Ibrahim Alizadeh (36 years of age) and Aghdas Rasouli (30 years of age).

The anti-narcotics agents of Rezaiyeh also arrested Ali Semsarzadeh and Ramezan Shaye'i on charges of use of heroin; Mustafa Davoudi on a charge of

carrying 10 centigrams of heroin; Bahman Dadafrini and Ismail Jalil Asel on charges of use of heroin; Yusef Keshvari on a charge of possessing 25 centigrams of heroin; Jamal Simin Maram, Bahman Dabaghi and Alireza Reza'i on charges of use of heroin; and Hossein Samadi and Yadollah Dabaghi, each of whom had 15 centigrams of heroin.

Eight Smugglers Arrested

Anti-narcotics agents of the Isfahan Police Department trapped eight smugglers and addicts with more than one and one-half kilos of opium.

One of those arrested was named Hossein Alipour Savadkouhi, who brought heroin with him from Teheran to Isfahan and took steps to package and sell the heroin in Room 215 of the Hotel Naghsh Jahan in Isfahan. He had concealed the heroin under the couch in his room and inside his shorts.

Another smuggler named Mohammed Khorrami Khorramabadi was trapped in his home on Koroush Avenue, Isfahan, with 115 grams of smuggled opium, 240 grams of burnt opium and an opium pipe.

Ahmed Mostari, who had set up an opium smoking den in one of the houses on Mohammed Reza Shah Avenue, Isfahan, was trapped by agents with five addicted customers, two pipes for smoking, one opium pipe, 135 grams of opium, 238 grams of cooked opium emulsion and 234 grams of opium extract.

The agents, who had become suspicious of one of the customers of this opium den, succeeded in searching the home of this person, who is named Hossein Ghouchani. They discovered 53 grams of cooked opium emulsion, 112 grams of smuggled opium and 35 grams of burnt opium.

The smugglers and addicts arrested were turned over to the judicial authorities of Isfahan after the dossiers were compiled.

In Teheran

Hossein Eghta'i (a 48 year old road and building engineer) was arrested while buying heroin. Mehdi Ahmadi (a 16 year old student) was arrested while selling heroin. Seifollah Shalchi (a 22 year old student) was arrested while selling heroin.

Eighteen People In One Day

As a result of the diligence and effort of the police department's anti-narcotics agents, during one day last week 18 pushers, distributors and users of narcotics, who were engaged in traffic within the areas of Red Lion and Sun Avenue, Jamshid Avenue, Ghazvin Street, Khezaneh Farah Abad Street, Darvazeh Ghar Street, Ghavam Daftor Street, Shahnaz Street and Khoshtargah Street, were arrested: Parviz Shahriz Paria with a quantity of heroin; Ali Rostami Shafi'i, 19 years old; Sardar Reza'i with a quantity of heroin;

Ali Reza Jadidi, 19 years old, with heroin; Kamran Afshar, 27 years old, with a quantity of hashish; Shakrollah Bakhshayesh with a quantity of heroin and cooked opium emulsion; Isa Sadeghi, Jalal Khouban and Ayadi Nejayesh with various types of narcotics; Gholamreza Sadeghi, 36 years old, with a quantity of opium; Mohammed Vaghefi with a quantity of heroin; Ismail Tabrizi, 32 years old, with heroin; Jamshid Saf Ara with gold foil contaminated with heroin; Alireza Moserra Vagholi, 28 years old, with heroin; Jamshid Lajourdi with heroin; Houshang Alizadeh, 22 years old, with hashish; Majid Boukani with heroin and Houshang Lesani, 28 years old, with heroin.

A number of those arrested were turned over to the Judge Advocate's Office of the Imperial Armed Forces and a group was turned over to the public courts.

The Police Department's Anti-Narcotics Squad also announced that investigative agents of the 8th Police Precinct discovered a hut in which an opium smoking den had been established, and they arrested the person who had established it and several customers with 400 grams of opium extract. During the investigation made of those arrested, it was learned that the person who had established the den, with the cooperation of his son-in-law, had been boiling the opium extract in the hut. Those arrested were named Mohammed Bakht Rasideh, Heydar Ali Rastegu, Alireza Shafiyani and Hassan Farzaneh, all of whom were sent to the Public Prosecutor's Office with the dossiers compiled.

Yesterday, too, agents arrested Kambiz Tayer Farahani (a 20 year old student), who was buying and selling heroin, and Ali Mo'adeli, son of Fathollah, with a quantity of heroin.

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IRAN

HEROIN INJECTED INTO APPLE

Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Dec 76 p 22

Text Shiraz, ETTELA'AT correspondent -- A woman who carried heroin to her imprisoned, addicted son by injecting the heroin into an apple was arrested by the prison authorities.

Delshad Ranjir injected 1.5 grams of heroin into an apple and went to the prison to visit her son, Kazem Panahandeh, who is a smuggler and an addict.

The officials, who had been suspicious of Delshad, sliced the apples, and they turned her over to the judicial authorities.

The accused was imprisoned by order of the examining magistrate of Branch Two of the Shiraz Public Prosecutor's Office of Interrogation.

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CSO: 5300

IRAN

ELEVEN KILOS OF HEROIN DISCOVERED IN HAMADAN

Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Dec 76 p 4

Text Hamadan -- The ETTELA'AT correspondent reports that 11 kilos of pure heroin were discovered during an armed clash between criminal investigation agents of the Hamadan Police Department and several smugglers.

At midnight last night, Hamadan's criminal investigation agents on the Teheran Road (the Kermanshah-Teheran fork in the road) ordered three suspicious men on Rastakhiz Boulevard to halt; but, because the suspects ignored the order, firing took place. During the firing, two of the armed smugglers fled and Fathali Arouji, their friend, was arrested.

When Fathali was arrested, he had with him 11 kilograms of pure heroin. The accused is now being interrogated until he discloses the descriptions of his two cohorts.

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CSO: 5300

IRAN

TWO BARRELS OF HEROIN DISCOVERED IN MALAYER

Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 7 Dec 76 p 1

Text Hamadan and Malayer, ETTELA'AT correspondent -- A laboratory for processing morphine and heroin with more than 500 kilos of narcotics and two small barrels of prepared materials for processing heroin were discovered in one of the villages of Malayer, and the ringleaders were arrested.

The Anti-Smuggling Strike Group of the Malayer Gendarmerie, under the supervision of 2nd Lt. Ahmadi, with prior knowledge, placed the home of a person named Ali Rahman Bakhtiari, in the village of Davijan, Malayer, under surveillance and, after becoming certain about the activities of the smugglers, they attacked the laboratory site and arrested three people named Ali Rahman Bakhtiari, Amir Ja'aferi and Ali Mosavi, who were engaged in manufacturing heroin in their laboratory.

In this incident 6.750 kilograms of morphine, 2.200 kilograms of opium emulsion, 115 kilograms of narcotic paste, two barrels of prepared materials for processing heroin, 160 liters of opium mixed with water, which had been prepared for the manufacture of morphine, 92 kilos of concentrated opium liquid and 7.350 kilograms of acid powder were discovered.

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CSO: 5300

IRAN

DISTRIBUTION OF OPIUM QUOTAS TO ADDICTS TO CHANGE

Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 15 Dec 76 p 3

Text Psychiatric sections will be established in public hospitals, and all affairs pertaining to addictive narcotics will be placed under the supervision of a single organization in the areas of the health system.

The seven committees of the Seminar of Regional Organizations, at the end of their sessions, made recommendations for progress in treatment and health affairs. The main points of these proposals are as follows:

Promptness in creating regional organizations and holding briefing seminars on all levels and in various fields is endorsed by all of the committees.

Considering the nature of Iran's social change, industrial hygiene requires a new emphasis.

The multiplicity found in affairs pertaining to environmental health must be eliminated, and unity of command must be established in this field.

The systems providing health and welfare services should be maintained until their new organizations are ready to provide services. With the establishment of health and welfare systems throughout the country, duplication of effort by various organizations will be prevented.

In creating health and welfare systems, special attention should be given to the problems of the mental health of the physically handicapped and the mentally retarded by training the necessary manpower on all levels with the use of short-term courses and long-term training and by establishing a system of psychiatric sections in the public hospitals; thus, sections will be formed in psychiatric hospitals and psychiatric-social organizations.

All affairs pertaining to drugs and addiction must be placed under the supervision of a single organization in the region so that continuous treatment, prevention and control over drugs and addiction, the delivery of addicts' opium coupons and quotas and related experimental affairs can be controlled in every respect.

IRAN

BRIEFS

HEROIN SMUGGLERS--Recently, on the basis of information received concerning activities of Hamadani smugglers in various parts of Teheran, police anti-narcotics commissioners made arrests in three places. On South Shahbaz Avenue, at the Tir-Do-Qalv intersection, they arrested Mohammad Nushirvan, 'Ali Samavati (also known as 'Ali Dada), and Mohammad Nowruzi in the act of selling 60 grams of heroin. Elsewhere, Firuz Qasempur Motlaq (also known as Firuz Ghorreh), a well-known gangster, was arrested with 100 grams of heroin in his possession, and Taqi Jabbari was arrested with 158 grams of heroin in his possession. These smugglers were bringing the narcotics from the village of Famanin to Tehran. Dossiers were prepared on the arrested persons, who were then haled before the Royal Armed Forces investigative administration. [Text] [Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 9 Nov 76 p 26]

HEROIN DISTRIBUTOR IN SHIRAZ--Ebrahim Hammatpanah, a heroin distributor with a record, was arrested in the act of distributing heroin to young addicts opposite the Sa'di Hospital from motor vehicle No. 57615 Teheran. A search of the vehicle discovered 20 syringes, 120 centigrams of heroin, and 100 grams of hashish and opium. Ebrahim and his customer were jailed pending questioning by the Shiraz Third Bureau. [Text] [Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 10 Nov 76 p 22]

ARREST OF FAMILY WITH HEROIN--Yesterday afternoon, commissioners of Tabriz police station No. 6 arrested Samad Baqeri (also known as Samad Keyyat), a heroin distributor with a record, and his 12-year-old son as they were distributing heroin to young people at Gajil Gate, Tabriz. The two had concealed 38 two-centigram packages of heroin in their clothing. This morning, Samad's wife, Maliheh Amini, went to the station to visit the two and gave 1,000 riyals to Samad. The police, whose suspicion was aroused, inspected the money and found six more packages of heroin in it. All three are addicts. [Text] [Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 15 Nov 76 p 26]

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MOZAMBIQUE

POPULAR VIGILANTES APPREHEND DRUG TRAFFICKERS

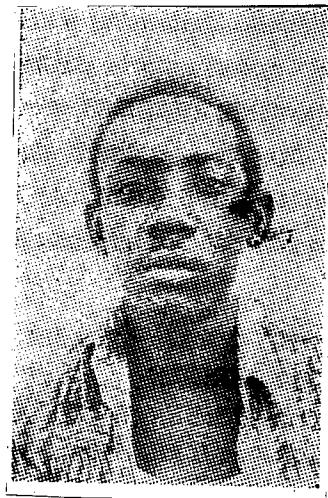
Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 31 Dec 76 p 2

[Text] Chibabava (Correspondent)--Four persons engaged in the cultivation, sale and use of hashish were caught and put out of operation in the district of Chibabava by the Popular Vigilantes. The four persons were caught in illegal possession of the drug during an inspection on the Buzi river bridge by fighters of the Popular Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique (FPLM). It was later learned that two of them were also growing hashish.

After being put out of operation, they were immediately sent to a rehabilitation camp where their rehabilitation is currently in progress with the aim of their being reintegrated into society.

Meanwhile, administrative organizations are carrying on intensive investigations in the areas where the prevaricators live, with the intent of thoroughly destroying the cultivation and consumption of hashish.

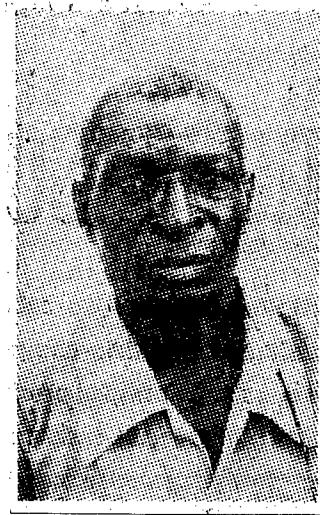
The following persons were apprehended at that time: Jose Paulo (seller) 20 years old, employee of Davidson and Broadfoot, Ltd. in Beira, apprehended in possession of 20 grams of hashish which he was carrying with him to sell in that city. Gaico Veremo Jacama (grower) 42 years of age, rural worker, living in Chibabava. Joao Mahala (smoker) bachelor, 34 years old, farmer, living in Chibabava. Gapananhe Sarmento (grower), 49 years old, farmer, also living in Chibabava.



Jose Paulo



Joao Mahala



Gapananhe Sarmento



Gaico Varemo Jacama

CSO: 5300

CYPRUS

LARGE QUANTITY OF HASHISH SEIZED ABOARD CYPRIOT VESSEL

Athens Domestic Service in Greek 1800 GMT 7 Jan 77 AT

[Text] The Ministry of Merchant Marine has announced that about 11 tons of processed high-quality black and white hashish were confiscated last night near Korinthos aboard the Cypriot motorship Gloria. The 499-ton [as heard] motorship Gloria, registered in Limassol, was coming from Lebanon and intended to pass through the Corinth Canal on the way to Northern Europe.

A total of 303 bags of hashish totaling 10,700 kilos were found on the Gloria. Minister of Merchant Marine Papadongonas, port authority chief Skiadas and harbor inspector Liosis visited the site. The people accompanying the cargo were detained, and the ship's crew is in custody. The relevant file has been sent to the prosecutors of the court of appeals in Navplion and of the court of misdemeanors in Korinthos.

The ministry announcement states that its personnel learned of the shipment 2 months ago and that many ships were searched as a result.

Finally, it is stated that the confiscation of such a large quantity of hashish deals a heavy blow to international drug smuggling and will save thousands of lives.

CSO: 5300

FINLAND

TWO SINGAPOREANS WITH HEROIN ARRESTED AT HELSINKI AIRPORT

Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 16 Dec 76 p 12

[Article by Martti Heikkinen: "Increased Surveillance Paid Off"]

[Text] An unusual itinerary and out-of-the-ordinary behavior gave away Singaporean smugglers of heroin at Helsinki Airport. A man and a woman were picked out from the line for an inspection that revealed a gigantic haul of heroin.

Secretary of the Customs Aarre Panula said on Wednesday that increased surveillance of hard drugs has been in effect at Helsinki Airport for some time now. And it was quite a coincidence that on the previous day customs inspectors at the airport had seen a teaching film about using food cans for smuggling heroin.

The cans containing heroin were found in the man's hand luggage. The 11 kilos of heroin were hidden in 28 cans, which, according to their labels, should have contained fruit, beans or soup with mussels.

In addition to the cans containing heroin, the 34-year-old man and his 25-year-old companion also had 17 cans with their original contents.

Customs inspectors' suspicions of drug smuggling were strengthened immediately after the first cans were found, but it was not certain that the drug was heroin until customs chemists arrived to work that evening.

The cans in the brown leather bag contained over 11 kilos of heroin which was only one step away from being the finished product. Drug smugglers and policemen investigating international drug traffic call the grey granular substance "Heroin #3."

A neat hole, approximately the width of a finger, had been drilled into the cans, through which the original contents had been changed into heroin. Labels had been re-glued to cover up the hole which had been closed with tin.

It was the purpose of the Customs and the narcotics police to keep the news of the big haul away from the public for a few days in order to get money for investigation. News of what had happened spread, however, and on Wednesday officials did talk about the event and its details.

On Wednesday estimates of the monetary value of the haul became more precise. According to the price on the streets the captured amount of heroin would be worth at least 30 million markkas, and wholesale about one-tenth of the street value.

The chain of events started on Tuesday after the Lufthansa plane from Frankfurt landed at 5:30 pm a little behind schedule.

Among the travelers disembarking were a man and a woman whose passports bore evidence of unusually frequent traveling in Europe and the Far East.

"For the past few weeks we have had a couple of customs officers detailed exactly for these kinds of cases, and the couple attracted their attention. The man and the woman were followed all the way to the green line where they were led to the side," Aarre Panula, who directed the preliminary investigation, told us.

According to the customs officers the man and woman took an orientally calm attitude in regard to the extra inspection. The brown leather bag carried by the man was found to contain nothing but food cans.

More cans were found in the two suitcases. From the outside the cans looked perfectly fine, the metal parts were unbroken and the labels intact.

"We did not even need dogs in the inspection, because the handling and shaking of the cans revealed that they could not possibly contain any liquids or fruits. The first test of the grey granules from one of the can proved that there was every reason to suspect that the contents were narcotics."

The man and woman, who proved to be Singaporeans according to their passports, did not reveal what the contents of the cans were. The Customs called their chemists to come to work, and at night they confirmed that the substance was heroin. Most probably the couple would have continued to Brussels from Finland.

"We informed the Keskusrikospoliisi [Central Criminal Police] that night and asked for assistance in the investigation. The first Telex messages to Interpol and the police and Customs in all European countries were sent out the next morning," Panula said.

Around midnight the Singaporeans had been taken to the Tikkurila police station from where they were taken to Helsinki in the morning.

The man was taken to the Keskusrikospoliisi and the woman to the Narcotics Department of the Helsinki Police Department. They had not been thoroughly questioned on Wednesday.

On Wednesday it was still unclear how much of the captured narcotics were meant for Finland's small drug trade and how much was to go elsewhere. The bulk of the heroin was thought to be on its way to distribution centers in central Europe.

One of the cans had a label with the Finnish words "vihreita papuja" [green beans]. Some of the cans contained preserves sold in Finland, the rest were fairly unfamiliar and oriental.

"All along through this fall we have had more information of the fact that Helsinki is considered a thoroughfare for hard drugs to European markets. It was a surprise that we made such a big catch so soon," Panula said.

Finnish officials got hints of heroin smuggling via Helsinki in connection with the recent Korean case, among other things.

And it was just a coincidence that the airport's customs officers had seen a film produced by the United Nations which called into attention ways to smuggle heroin, hiding it, for example, in food cans.

"We have been expecting something like this almost daily. Also here in Helsinki small amounts of heroin have been on sale, even though we have not wanted to talk about it in public," says department head Unto Vuono from the Helsinki Criminal Police.

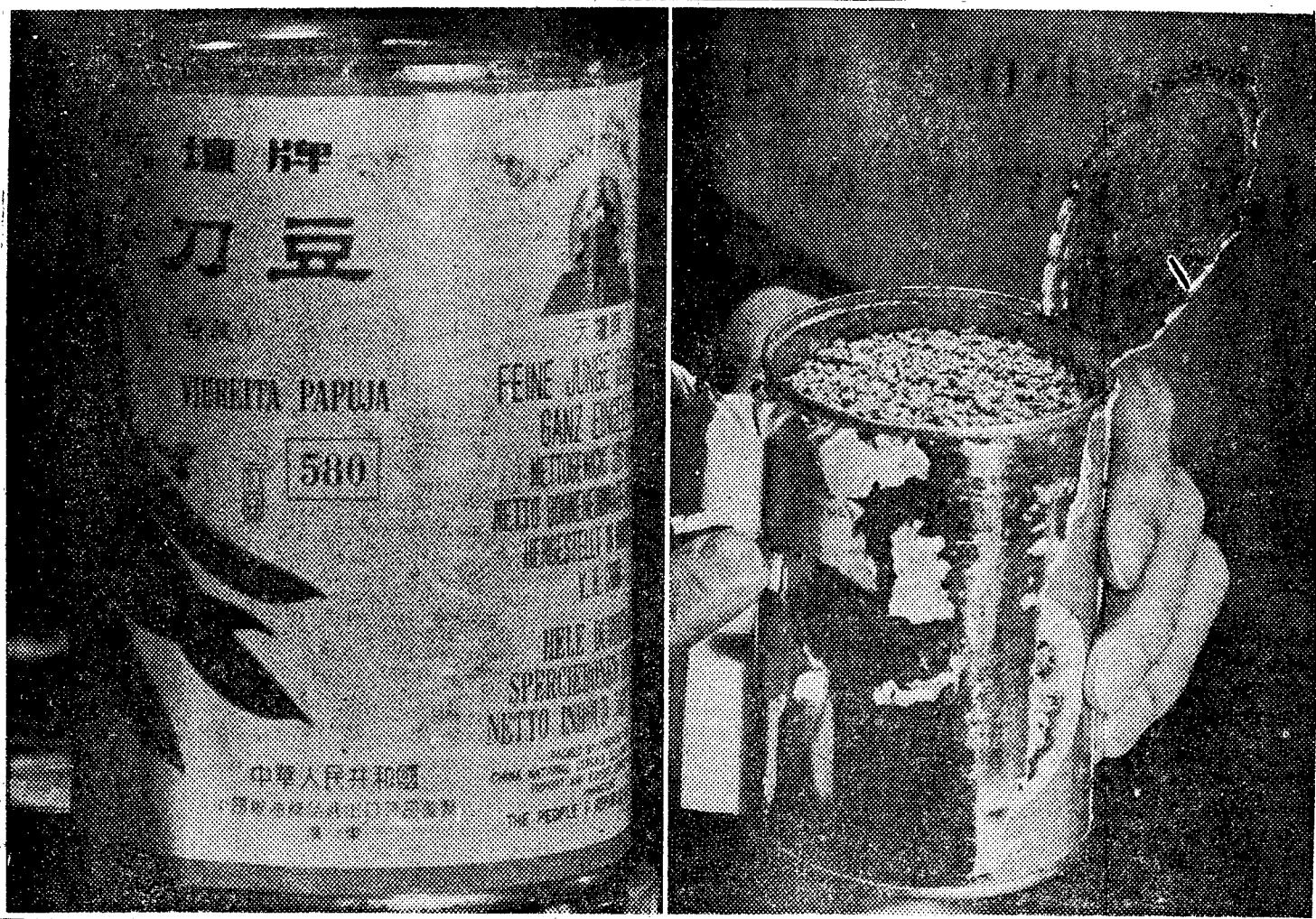
The fact that heroin has appeared on a larger scale in Scandinavian drug trade has been discussed in seminars for narcotics investigators this fall. Norwegians in particular have been concerned about the tens of kilos filtering through Oslo to the south.

The arrested Singaporeans are now faced with questioning from the Customs and the Police as well as court action, probably at the Vantaa District Court. Helsinki Airport lies in the Vantaa district.

The Finnish law decrees a prison sentence of up to 10 years for drug smuggling. Finland and Singapore do not have an agreement of prisoner exchange so that the sentence will be carried out in Finland.

Prior to the Tuesday seizure Finnish officials had confiscated only some tens of grams of heroin at any one time. They had not even talked about seizures amounting to kilos.

In 1973 a heroin gang was exposed in Helsinki. This gang had sold thousands of individual doses in the capital city and its vicinity. Since then it has been fairly quiet until last spring when a 20-year-old man was discovered with a cache of about 20 grams of pure heroin hidden in the woods.



8200
CSO: 5300

NORWAY

ARRESTED SMUGGLERS POSSESSED 16 KILOGRAMS OF HEROIN

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 6 Dec 76 p 4

[Articles by Odd Bergfald, Olav Heltne and Inge D. Hanssen]

[Text] Heroin Valued at 15 Million Kroner

The seizure of 16 kilos of heroin at Fornebu Saturday is the biggest narcotics bust in Nordic criminal history. The customs officials caught two men from the East with heroin worth around 15 million Norwegian kroner. The two men were travelling on passports which had been issued in Singapore, and they said they were sailors. According to the passports they are 26 and 23 years old. They arrived at Fornebu by SAS flight 450 from Copenhagen shortly before 0930 hours. They were caught by the customs officials in a routine check. The heroin was distributed in eight bags. Two bags were hidden in each of their four suitcases, all of which had false bottoms and double locks. Their tickets showed that the two heroin smugglers came from Bangkok, Thailand. They had open return tickets from Copenhagen.

The Nordic countries give a maximum prison sentence of 10 years for narcotics smuggling. The two men who were just caught, however, may risk up to 15 years because they are guilty of smuggling heroin as well as of having been in possession of it. According to what AFTENPOSTEN has been told, a conference will be held this morning at the police station in Asker and Baerum with the narcotics squad of the Oslo police headquarters, which usually coordinates all narcotics cases in the country. A request for detention of the two smugglers will be made today.

On Friday 26 November two other men from the East, who were also smuggling heroin in suitcases, were arrested at the main airport of Amsterdam. This catch was not as big as the one at Fornebu last Saturday morning. The narcotics squad knows that the two smugglers who were arrested Saturday belong to the same ring of heroin smugglers as those two who were caught in Amsterdam about a week ago. According to information received by the narcotics police in Europe from agents in the East, these four smugglers make up half of a smuggling ring of eight men, who all brought heroin in suitcases with false bottoms and double locks to the heroin market in Amsterdam. The fact that four of these

smugglers have been caught does not mean much to the Chinese rings which are behind the smuggling. Each shipment of heroin which arrives safely in the hands of the European narcotics distributors means an economic success to the Chinese rings. Each pair of agents brings heroin worth millions.

In Copenhagen customs officials as well as the police have kept surveillance at airports, railway stations and harbor areas, on the lookout for smugglers with Chinese heroin. Special squads patrolled these places for more than three days, but they were withdrawn on Friday since no heroin agent showed up. As soon as the news was out that the heroin agents in Norway had been arrested Saturday, alarm was again sounded in Copenhagen, but one was then aware of the fact that the agents who were destined for the Danish capital must already have passed through the checkpoint with the poison. All the agents who were sent to Europe had been given an itinerary of the European capitals, and both Oslo and Copenhagen were marked on it.

The heroin which was seized at Fornebu last Saturday is not top quality. It is 'Chinese heroin' no. 3, or 'Brown Rocks' no. 3, with a heroin content of approximately 35 percent. In Copenhagen, where a considerable heroin market exists, this type of heroin sells for around 800 kroner per gram. The price would probably have been a bit higher in Oslo, if we really have a heroin market here now. Police officer Per Carlson, who is the chief of the narcotics squad in Oslo, tells AFTENPOSTEN that there is reason to fear that even in the Oslo area the situation has become so bad that our worst narcotics cases have started using heroin intravenously, which means shooting it directly into the bloodstream. The chief medical officer of Oslo, Fredrik Melbye, has already announced that our first heroin poisoned narcotics addict was admitted to the Ullevaal Hospital about one week ago.

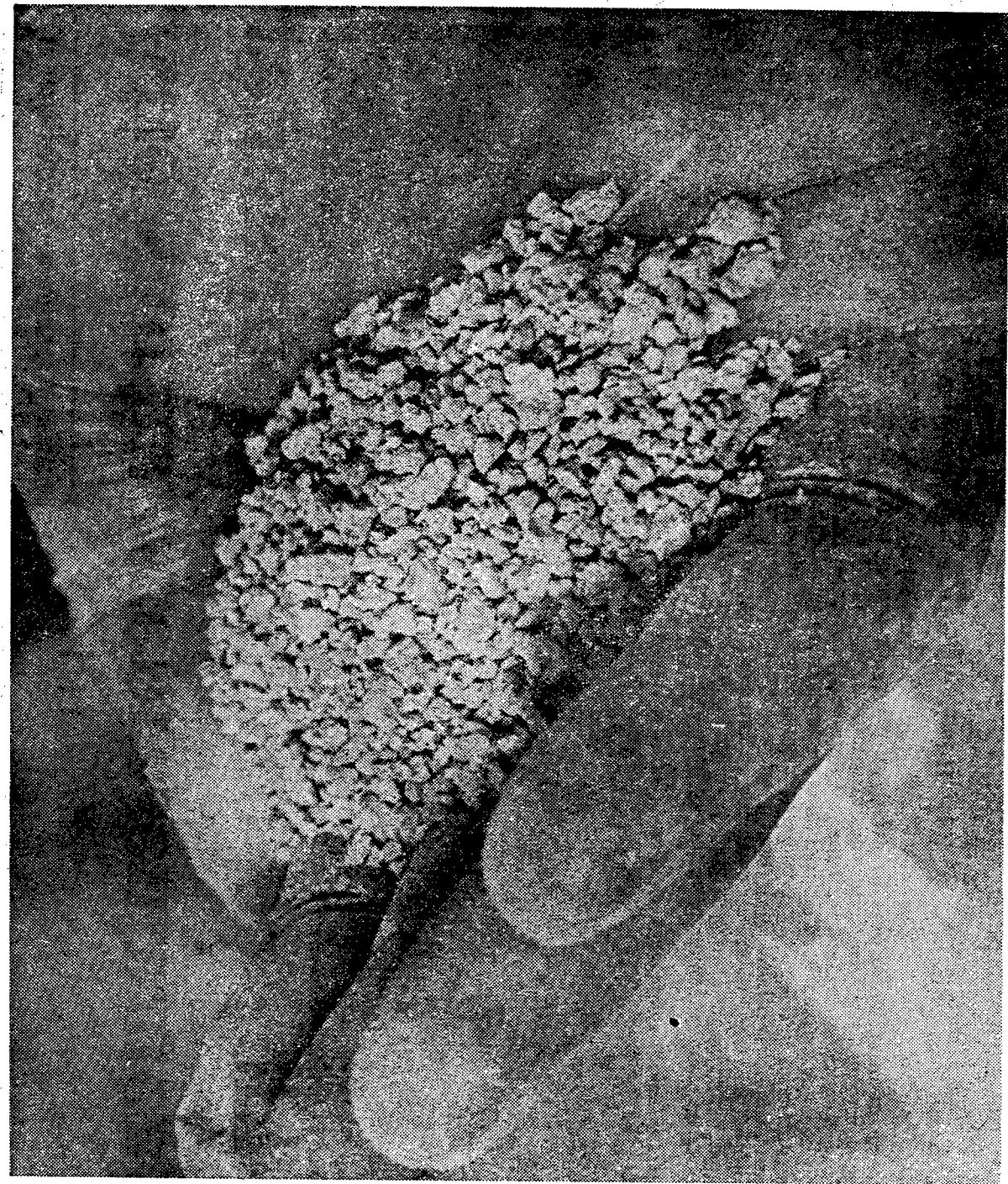
Saturday afternoon Chief of Police Gunnar Gjone at the Asker and Baerum police station held a press conference concerning the heroin case which is presently being investigated.

[A] The customs authorities as well as the police have through Interpol been informed of the fact that Fornebu has been used as transit port by heroin smugglers. This must lead to stricter control.

[Q] Were you forewarned of the two arrested persons' arrival?

[A] We knew nothing about these particular persons who were caught, but the fact that they were caught did not come as a surprise.

The heroin smugglers were caught red-handed. They were standing in front of the customs officials with their suitcases in their hands when they were asked to open them. The disclosure of the smuggled goods was quite easy. Whenever heroin smugglers or other narcotics smugglers are caught, the first question that comes to mind is whether they are armed. In spite of all possible arms controls at the airports, we have seen that it is still possible to board international flights bearing a weapon. The two smugglers were unarmed, and their arrest was not very dramatic.



Identity of Smugglers

A big question regarding the arrested smugglers is of course whether the passports which they were carrying are genuine or false. Everything points to them being genuine, but that does not necessarily mean that the arrested persons are the owners of the passports.

Approximately 3,000 law-abiding Chinese are presently living in Amsterdam. They are mostly people who moved to the Netherlands during the depression of the 1920's and their descendants. However, during the past 4-5 years around 10,000 Chinese have entered the Netherlands illegally. These Chinese are living in a perpetual fear of being deported. The Chinese narcotics rings take advantage of this situation. They have agents among the illegal Chinese residents. These agents are ruthless, and they force those Chinese who own legal passports to 'lend' them out. In many cases heroin agents arriving from the East carry passports belonging to law-abiding Amsterdam Chinese.

The fact that the Chinese rings in the course of 8 days have lost four of their couriers, or distributors, in the European heroin market means nothing to the narcotics sharks who are behind it all and get the profits. ~~Couriers or distributors are cheap in Hong Kong, and also in Bangkok. Their employers no longer care about them once they have been caught. If they should know too much, or if their employer discovers that they cooperate with the police, their certain fate is to be murdered. The Asker and Baerum police can therefore not expect any cooperation from the arrested men. Like other couriers who have been caught, they will probably assert that they had no idea they were bringing heroin to Europe.~~

Heroin Hidden in 4 Suitcases

One of the Chinese gave up quickly, but the other one was more quick-tempered and did not give up until we tore out the lining of one suitcase and actually pointed out the heroin.

Customs official Leif Lofthus tells this to AFTENPOSTEN. It was he and a female colleague who discovered that the two Chinese had suitcases with false bottoms, and thereby disclosed the hitherto largest heroin smuggling in the Nordic countries. Lofthus said that they had no suspicions in advance, it was a regular routine check.

Customs official Lofthus says that the two Chinese men were checked just by chance. He and his female colleague stopped one man each, and it did not take the long to discover that everything was not as it should be.

The Chinese spoke good English, and we told them of our suspicion that their four suitcases had false bottoms. One of the Chinese wanted to disprove it and stabbed the bottom of one with a pair of scissors. This proved to me that the suitcase had a false bottom, because I was holding my hand on the other side of it and could not feel the scissors at all, Lofthus says.

He does not hide the fact that the Chinese behaved courteously once they understood that they had been caught.

[Q] Were they armed?

[A] No, we know for sure they were not. They were both frisked, but no weapons **were** found.

Customs Officials Not Forewarned

The customs authorities had not been forewarned of the large heroin transport which was disclosed at Fornebu Saturday morning. Haakon Skarer, who is department manager of Customs, tells AFTENPOSTEN that an increase in the heroin smuggling from the East to Europe was expected. All large airports in Europe were therefore taking precautions. The disclosure at Fornebu, however, happened during a regular routine check.

Norwegian customs authorities knew nothing concrete in advance. We did know that heroin shipments from the East to Europe would take place, but not which countries would be used as transit countries for the shipments to Amsterdam, which is the headquarters of the narcotics trade in Europe, the department manager says.

Skarer does not hide the fact that the international narcotics rings are very well organized, and that they use nearly all European airports. The rings know the special conditions at each individual airport, and often also the daily routines.

The transition to harder drugs on the European narcotics market has led to the fact that higher values and more capital than ever before are presently involved. The smugglers leagues have become much more professional. We must also be aware of the fact that we are no longer dealing only with youths traveling to Copenhagen with 2-3,000 kroner in their pockets to buy hashish for themselves and their friends. We catch persons of that category daily, but compared to the recent development in the narcotics field this kind of traffic is only peanuts, Skarer says.

[Q] Is the control at Fornebu strict enough? It is a fact that heroin worth 135 million kroner has been smuggled from the East to Europe via Fornebu.

[A] It is of course impossible to check all travelers, and no country in the world conducts customs checks with that purpose. We are in the situation that we have very good relations with colleagues in Europe and other parts of the world. We therefore try to use our people on the background of information received from international sources, in order to prevent the bulk of the traffic.

Apart from this we must count on spot checks and routine checks, Skarer says.

The department manager is of the opinion that an expansion of the international cooperation is the most sensible way to try to disclose narcotics smugglers.

Justice Minister Comments

I will now consider the matter of proposing stricter punishment for narcotics smuggling and trade. What happened at Fornebu is such a grave crime that, in my opinion, we have to start using stricter means. My views are in accordance with those of the chairman of the Justice Committee. Justice Minister Inger Louise Valle makes this comment to AFTENPOSTEN in connection with the heroin seizure at Fornebu Saturday morning.

According to paragraph 162 of the penal code, which deals with the import and sale of narcotics, the maximum prison sentence for such crimes is 10 years. The maximum sentence has never been imposed, but heroin smuggling is such a serious crime that the justice minister feels there is good reason for increasing the penalty. She does not yet want to comment on the new maximum sentence.

The justice minister further informs us that she will meet with Chief of Police Gunnar Gjone of the Asker and Baerum police district Monday morning. She will later have meetings with the customs authorities and with representatives of the Criminal Police headquarters. The purpose of these meetings will be to discuss possible initiatives to halt the activities of the narcotics smugglers.

I would like to hear the opinions of the experts in the field before the Justice Department presents a concrete proposal of tighter control. We must then find out whether the department's budget will allow further initiatives. Should there not be sufficient funds, the question of further grants must be discussed with the Finance Department, Justice Minister Valle says.

The justice minister adds that several initiatives have been taken since the disturbing news of heroin smuggling via Norway. The security at Fornebu has been tightened, and a proposal has been made to make it a temporary law to let the police bug telephones if a suspicion of narcotics crimes exists. The justice minister tells AFTENPOSTEN that she hopes the proposal will be introduced to and passed by the Storting before Christmas.



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SWEDEN

POLICE INTENSIFY SEARCH FOR NARCOTICS

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 11 Dec 76 p 8

[Article by Leif Dahlin]

[Text] The police forces will intensify their fight against the well organized narcotics traffic to Sweden. At an emergency meeting in Stockholm Friday chiefs of police from all over the country, representatives of the government, parliament and the police union agreed on a proposal made by the head of the National Police Forces: a 50-percent increase in the police personnel resources for narcotics search primarily for the purpose of tracking down and crushing the heroin and amphetamine rings.

More than 200 persons, among them all the chiefs of police and district heads of police in the country, attended a priority meeting which lasted one whole day. Even though in certain places of the country personnel shortages are already being felt, a redistribution must take place so that the fight against narcotics comes before anything else.

This means that the search for and investigations of other crimes may have to be neglected even more. As an example of how the nationwide action will be conducted it can be mentioned that, starting in the middle of January next year the police district of Jonkoping will reinforce its narcotics squad by three persons. The present squad consists of five.

The smaller districts of Eksjo, Vetlanda and Varnamo, which together have a narcotics squad of six, will get three more when the need arises.

Other Crimes

The police district of Jonkoping, which is the largest in the province, will act as headquarters for the collected information. It is further planned that the State Laboratory for Criminal Technology in Linkoping will put a high priority on material related to the narcotics investigations, and use computers to make systematic analyses of various kinds of narcotics in order to discern chemical characteristics. This will be done to attain knowledge of the size and distribution of smuggled shipment.

Carl Persson, the head of the National Police, said as an introduction that the narcotics crimes are closely related to other types of crime.

"We know there is a close relationship between theft, fencing and burglary. We also know there is a connection between gambling clubs and so-called shady activities, pimping and prostitution. Narcotics is intermingled with many of the most troublesome crimes."

The head of the National Police reminded the meeting of the last large-scale police action in this field in 1968-69. At that time 700 men were fighting the narcotics problem, and they eventually began to get good results. But as the intensity was gradually reduced the narcotics crimes rose again.

Persson says: "While we were successively reducing our efforts the narcotics crimes began to take on a different character, and the most serious element which we at an early stage tried to caution against was to get heroin into the Swedish market. Besides, when we had succeeded in breaking down a large part of the amphetamine smuggling, among other things by arresting Karl Pauksch, this smuggling became better organized. We dare assert that a very extensive amphetamine and heroin smuggling is going on."

Well Organized

This assertion has been proved in many ways; one of them is the number of confiscations. Another one is the number of reports about monitored telephone conversations. Furthermore, those persons working in the field have noticed that the situation has grown more serious. We have today a very well organized trade in narcotics.

"We must try to catch those who are doing the actual smuggling, and it is therefore necessary to concentrate on the couriers. Further international cooperation is also essential. And we must concentrate on the openly thriving street peddling, particularly in the big cities. It is a demand by society that the police officers do not close their eyes to the flourishing peddling, as is the case in many places. In addition to our own actions, we will discuss with the state attorney the possibility of getting special narcotics prosecutors in certain cases. We personally feel that this might help to make the investigations more effective, the head of the national police said."

Important narcotics confiscations take place at regular intervals. A few days ago the police in Norrkoping and Malmo seized heroin and amphetamine and a week ago the car of a drug courier was stopped by customs officials in Helsingborg. In the gas tank with false bottom they found 21 kilos of cannabis.

The great confiscation at Fornebu airport in Oslo last weekend of 16 kilos of heroin to a market value of 16 million Swedish kronor could just as easily have happened in Stockholm. "We were expecting a shipment of this size," a spokesman for the narcotics commission of the Criminal Police says.

According to certain estimates, one kilo of heroin is distributed on the Stockholm narcotics market every day. It is still Amsterdam in the Netherlands which is the spider in the web of smuggled goods stretching across the European continent. Heroin centers are formed in the bigger European cities, and the sellers are the opium syndicates in the so-called Golden Triangle (Burma, Laos and Thailand).

By the end of 1976 the total amount of heroin which was confiscated in Western Europe during the year is expected to climb to well over 600 kilos. Barely 10 kilos were seized in 1971. Even though the smugglers are making use of all imaginable ways and means of transportation it is still the ports of Skane which, due to insufficient customs coverage, remain the chief ports of entry into Sweden.

About 10 men from the narcotics section of the criminal police have for some time been staying in Skane where they move from place to place, trying to collect enough information to finally be able to blow the cover of a certain enterprise. They hope to find several organizers behind the heroin smuggling.

Made Narcotics in Apartment

The narcotics investigators of the Jonkoping Criminal Police Department Friday cracked down on an apartment in a house where several families lived in Osterangen, Jonkoping. They had suspicions of illegal narcotics manufacture. A young couple who lived in the apartment was arrested after all the ingredients and equipment necessary to manufacture amphetamines had been found. A rank odor of ether, sulphuric acid and other chemical ingredients met the police officers on entering the apartment. Some plastic bags which contained approximately 150 grams of white powder were confiscated, and they have been sent to the State Laboratory for Criminal Technology in Linkoping for a laboratory test. The police believes that the couple had not had time to sell much of the drug.

Heroin Store in Amsterdam

In Amsterdam, where the abuse of heroin is now so serious that one in a hundred are abusers, the heroin first reaches the rich Chinese godfathers of the "Triad," who then distribute it. The abusers admit that they steal one bicycle a day in order to pay for their daily ration of heroin. The heroin is distributed by the godfathers, partly to the local abusers, partly to the rest of Western Europe.

So far one sixth of all European confiscations made this year were made in Holland, and this figure is more than double what it was last year. But the police admits that this is only about 10 percent of the amount entering Holland, which is known for its liberal narcotics legislation.

In Holland it is fully legal to possess up to 30 grams of hashish or marihuana, and the maximum prison sentence for possession of heroin is 4 years. It is easy to get hold of heroin in Holland's Chinatown, and sometimes the traffic is done openly. The store windows of several restaurants bear signs in Chinese which read "cheap heroin for sale."

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